ON THE 'MONEY': FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. PROVES HE'S STILL THE KING

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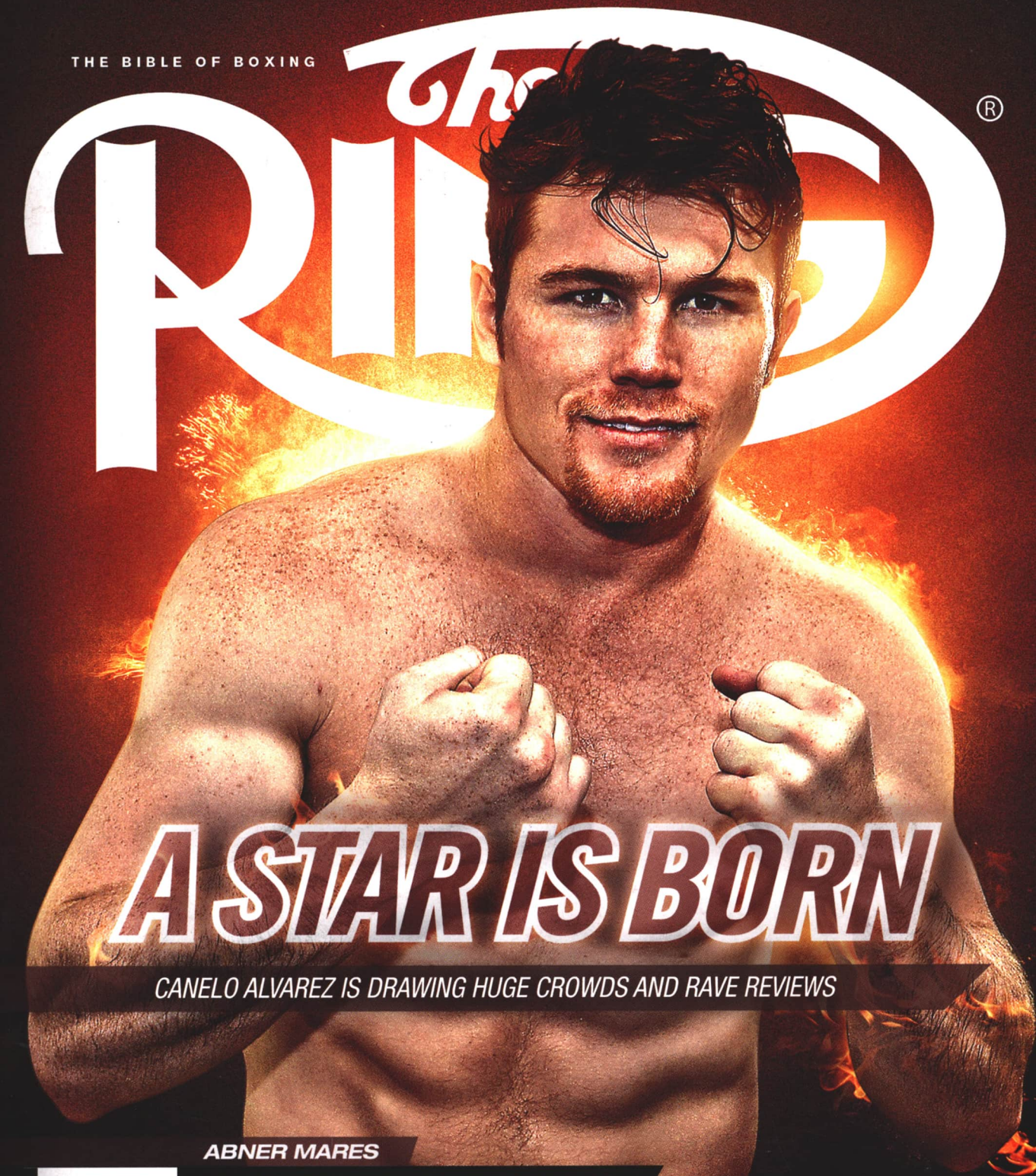

A STAR IS BORN

CANELO ALVAREZ IS DRAWING HUGE CROWDS AND RAVE REVIEWS

ABNER MARES

NEW POUND-FOR-POUNDER HAS EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS

JAMIE MCDONNELL

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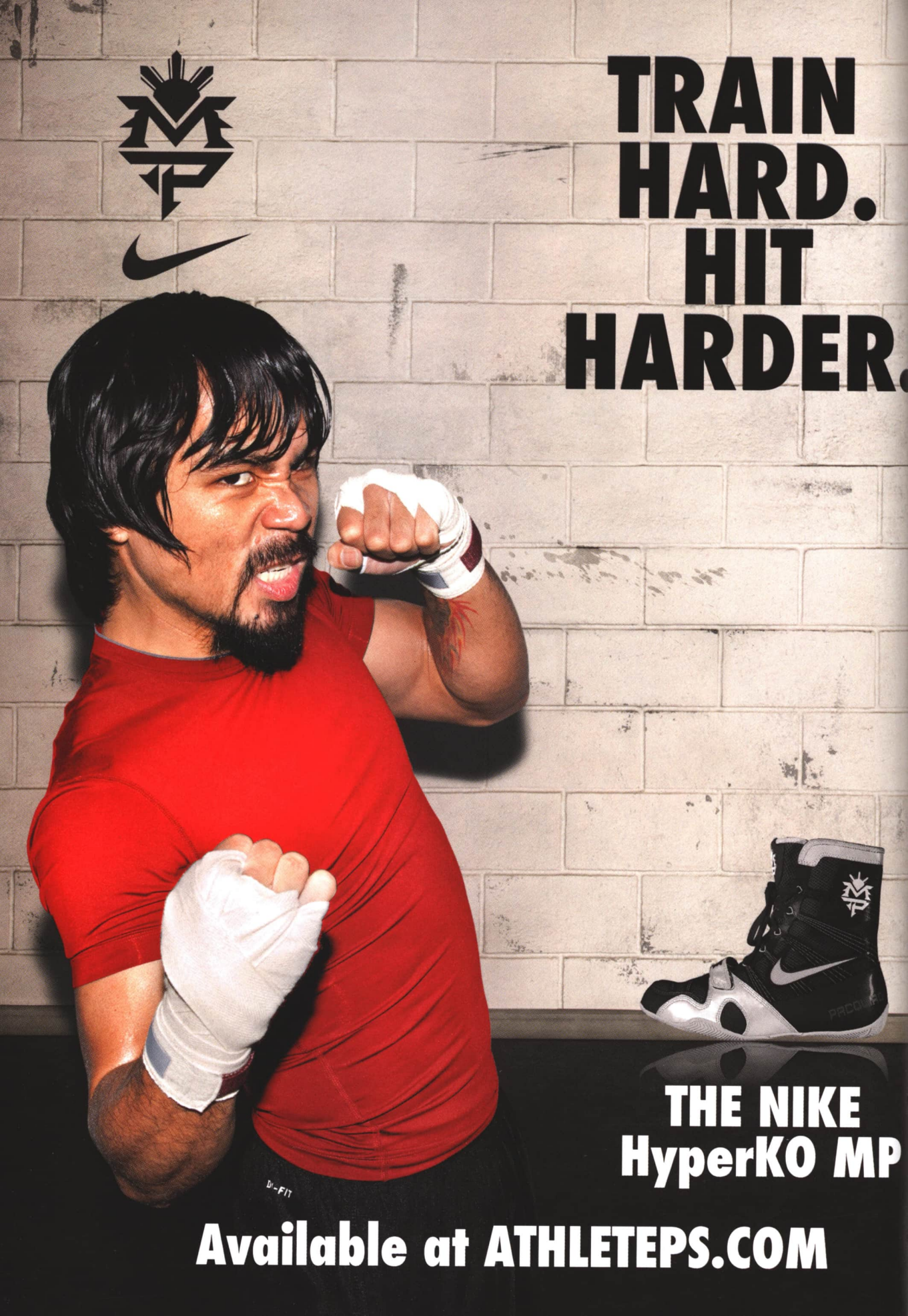
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Q&A: BERNARD HOPKINS
The IBF light heavyweight titleholder is scheduled to defend against Karo Murat on July 13 at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. THE RING caught up with him for a chat. GO TO: http://bit.ly/10U84jM or scan the QR Code.

MAYWEATHER VIDEO
Hear what Floyd Mayweather Jr. had to say following his impressive victory over Robert Guerrero on May 4 (Part I). GO TO: http://bit.ly/10pKHi1 or scan the QR Code.

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COVER PHOTO BY LANG/BOXING

 By **Michael Rosenthal**

ENTERTAINMENT VALUE IS IN EYE OF BEHOLDER

I'm always amused when someone says or writes that anyone who believes Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s style is boring is not a "real boxing fan." One writer quoted Floyd Mayweather Sr. to make his point: If you're bored by Junior, "You don't know (expletive) about boxing."

That's utter garbage.

If you do know (expletive) about boxing, you must recognize that Mayweather is an exquisite boxer. That is an unassailable truth. He proved it again in a blowout over Robert Guerrero on May 4.

However, to imply that you're a lesser fan or ignorant of the sport's finer points because you don't find the long-running Mayweather Show entertaining is both unfair and arrogant.

I've been a devotee of boxing since the first Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier fight, 42 years ago. While I couldn't train a boxer, I've gained some knowledge of the sport's intricacies over more than two decades as a boxing writer.

And, generally, I find Mayweather's style a cure for insomnia. Yes, I respect his profound ability to land punches without taking them. I even feel fortunate to have seen him do his thing – often up close – for so many years. I felt the same way about Pernell Whitaker.

That doesn't mean it was or is thrilling to watch either one of them do their thing, though.

The great fights are almost always marked by ebbs and flows, by dramatic, perhaps unexpected events that create drama. Mayweather's fights are generally devoid of drama. It's the same thing round after round, a great fighter toying with his overmatched prey until one-sided scorecards are handed to the ring announcer who tells us what we already know.

Impressive? Yes. Fun to watch? Not for long.

I was at ringside for Mayweather-Guerrero. I'm telling you: The life was sucked out of the MGM Grand Garden Arena by the third or fourth round, when it became clear that Guerrero had no chance. In other words, people were bored even if they were able to appreciate Mayweather's skills.

To be fair, Mayweather did pick up the pace in an effort to put Guerrero away toward the end of their fight but pulled back because of what he said was a hand injury. I believe him. I also believe the knockout is not central to who he is; I believe he's a hit-and-not-be-hit guy through and through.

Yes, that ultimately is the most direct path to victory - hit and not be hit - and no active fighter does it better than Mayweather. I'd just rather watch Lucas Matthysses and Mikey Garcias and Gennady Golovkins out there.

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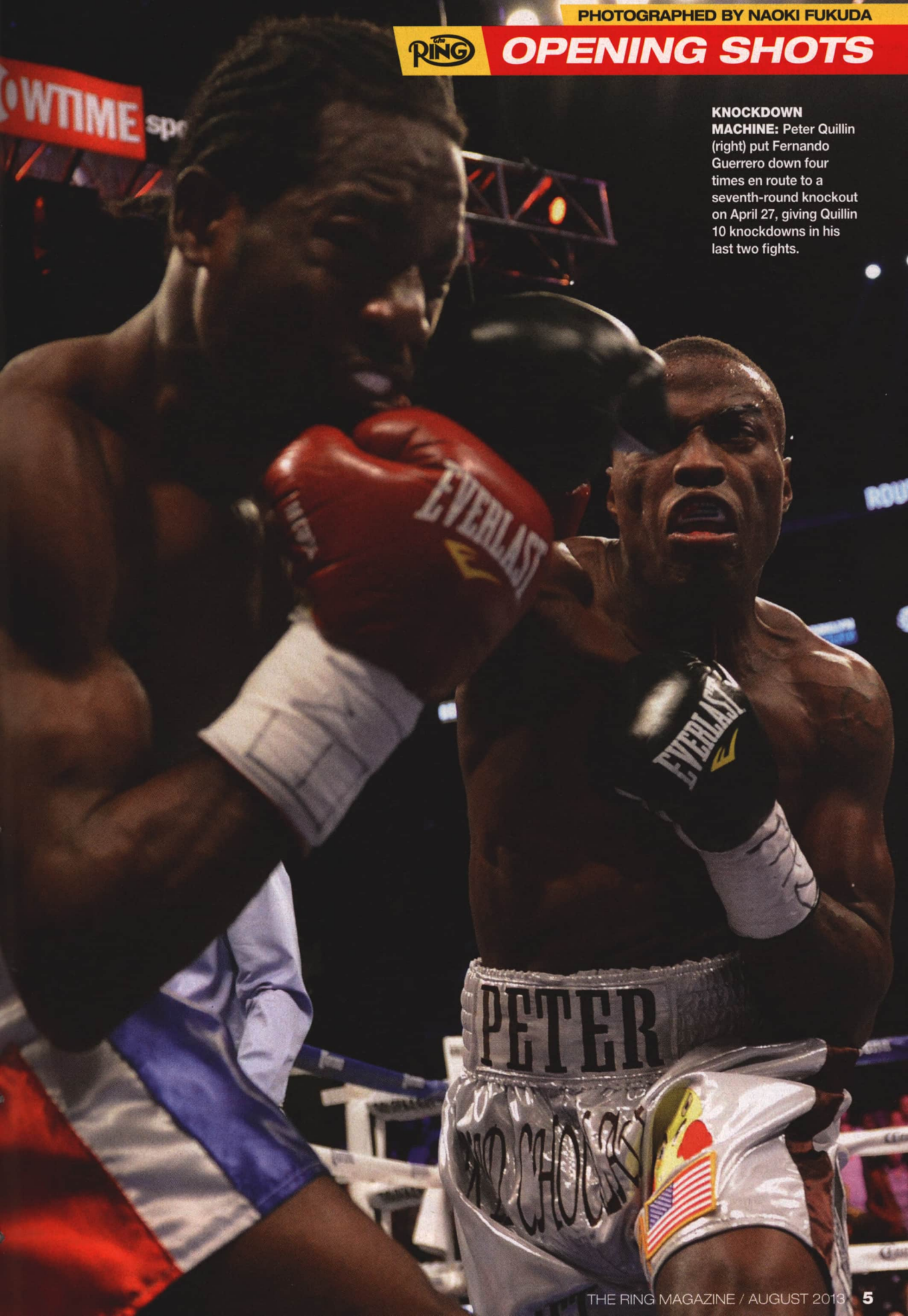

KNOCKDOWN MACHINE: Peter Quillin (right) put Fernando Guerrero down four times en route to a seventh-round knockout on April 27, giving Quillin 10 knockdowns in his last two fights.

CELEBRATION: Lucas Matthysse (right) was well aware that his stunning third-round knockout of Lamont Peterson on May 18 was a significant moment in his career.

RESILIENCE: Zab Judah (right) took many hard shots against Danny Garcia on April 27 but survived them to make the fight brutally competitive. Garcia won by decision.

Naoki Fukuda

COME OUT WRITING

ANOTHER MODERN MARVEL

The American boxing community should appreciate another dominating performance from a modern day great on May 4. He is coming to the end of his Hall of Fame career and fans should enjoy him while he's still in the ring performing to such a high standard. I am talking about Dr. Steelhammer, Wladimir Klitschko, the heavyweight champion of the world who made the 14th successive defense of his title against Francesco Pianeta. We can all bemoan the state of the division, the lack of top American talent and find other reasons to discredit the man, but the fact remains – we are in the Klitschko era, and have been for some time now. In years to come I believe he will be looked upon fondly by fans, but it would be nice if the great fans of the sweet science, especially those in the United States, gave him his due right now and appreciated a master at work. Remember, this is all about "hit and don't get hit," and very few in the game are better at it than Wladimir Klitschko.

Kurt Ward
Essex, England

MAYWEATHER'S MASTERPIECE

Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s performance against Robert Guerrero on May 4 was superb. Guerrero has good punching power and usually will find his opponent during the fight. Mayweather's defense was a masterpiece. The ability to completely avoid trouble against a top-caliber fighter like Guerrero is a great accomplishment. He still has amazing speed. Mayweather and Canelo Alvarez would be the fight of the year. Alvarez is so strong and still improving. His defense is dramatically better, as he demonstrated against Austin Trout. Mayweather's boxing skills are second to nobody right now. It might be in Mayweather's best interest to get on this fight now, considering his age and Canelo's drawing power.

Richard Abe
Carpinteria, Calif.

SURPRISE, SURPRISE

Canelo Alvarez surprised a lot of people with his defense against Austin Trout, who admitted that he "was prepared for a totally different fighter" on April 20. This shows just how well Canelo planned and performed. Like Trout, I don't think fight fans were prepared to see the defensive performance. Some might've misconstrued that as Trout bullying Canelo around the ring. Therefore, Trout was deemed the winner by at least some of those who enjoy busier fighters. Luckily, the official judges got it correct. Canelo planned for Trout's attack and executed that plan, not by running from his opponent or swinging without purpose, but by boxing. There are exciting Rios-Alvarado-type fights that can fulfill the needs of fans who prefer busier fighters. I enjoy those slugfests as much as anyone. Nevertheless, I am excited about Alvarez's future fights. I would like to see Floyd Mayweather Jr. fight Alvarez but Mayweather will stall until the clamor passes, as it did in the case of Manny Pacquiao.

Jeff Crockett
Baltimore

BACK TO THE BASICS

With no major pay-per-view fights happening on a recent weekend, I decided to attend a local amateur event way up in Prince George, British Columbia. It was exciting to see the fundamentals of the sweet science being utilized – a rangy boxer establishing his range and keeping his shorter power-punching opponent glued to the end of his jab, or a smaller, faster boxer using his footwork and quick combinations to pick apart his bigger, stronger foe. The hometown fans really got behind the local fighters and willed them on to victory. The card culminated with an entertaining main event, as the hometown boy pulled out a split-decision victory over a tough kid from Tacoma, Wash. It struck me as I watched that this is what boxing is all about. We don't need lights, theatrics and leopard-print outfits to make boxing appealing; all we need is four corners, a ref and two warriors willing to put on a show. Boxing is not just about money, boxing is about pride and passion, sportsmanship and discipline. Boxing is about having fun. Thank you to the local amateurs who helped me to remember this.

Hank Lukyn
Prince George, British Columbia, Canada

INTERESTING STORY

"The Alchemy of Boxing" (June 2013 issue) is well written and very interesting. I agree that the styles of "Evander Holyfield and Shane Mosley are difficult to define" but I'd like to take a crack at it. I categorize Mosley as a Puncher. He and his father referred to his style as "power boxing." Mosley was a fine all-around fighter but often fought to take the other guy out. I thought De La Hoya won their second bout. Mosley concentrated on landing hard blows throughout the contest. Evander Holyfield has given us so many exciting ring wars that it's hard to say he's a "boxer." I think he's a boxer-puncher with a bit of pressure fighter thrown in the mix. Holyfield was often relentless in attacking his opponent; I don't think anyone ever really looked forward to going through hell and back fighting him. Thought-provoking pieces like this one examining "styles make fights" are one reason I enjoy THE RING. Keep up your style of giving readers fresh angles on long-held boxing axioms.

Jonathan Keller
Tulsa, Okla.

WRITE TO THE RING!

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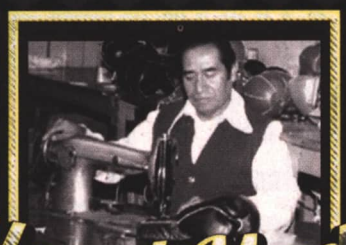

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Guillermo Rigondeaux had an easy time with Nonito Donaire on April 13 but not everyone liked what they saw.

Naoki Fukuda

WHAT'S EXPECTED OF A PROFESSIONAL FIGHTER

JABS & STRAIGHT WRITES

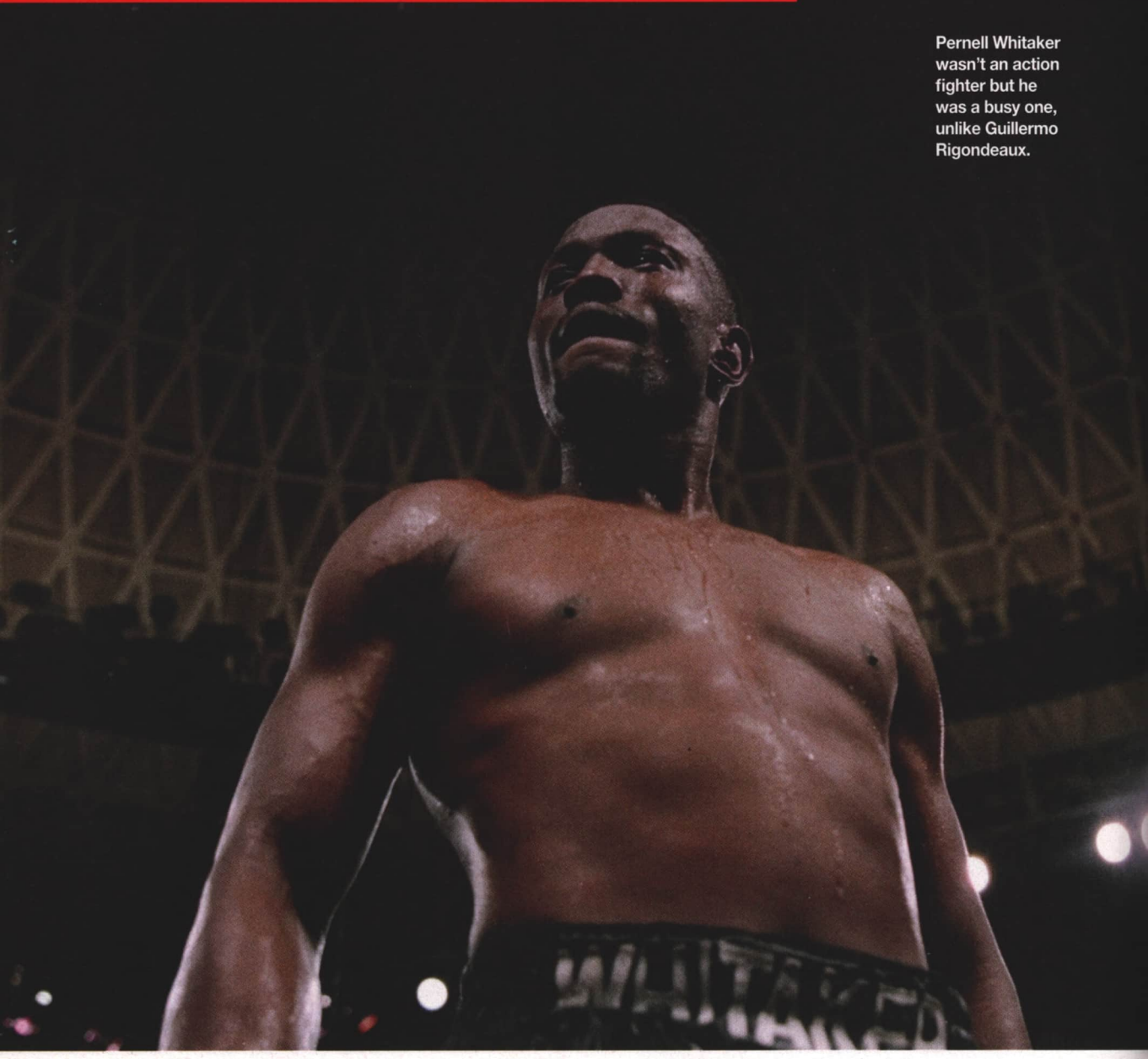
BY THOMAS HAUSER

The junior featherweight title unification bout between Nonito Donaire and Guillermo Rigondeaux on April 13 at Radio City Music Hall raises a thorny issue.

When Frank Sinatra graced the stage at Radio City Music Hall, he sang that New York is "the city that never sleeps." Sinatra didn't see Donaire-Rigondeaux. In a word, the fight was "boring." In two words, it was "very boring."

Rigondeaux has superb footwork, adequate power and superior tactical skills. At his best, he's an artist at work.

Donaire has prodigious physical gifts but is technically flawed. Those flaws showed against Rigondeaux. He tried to engage but it wasn't effective aggres-



Pernell Whitaker wasn't an action fighter but he was a busy one, unlike Guillermo Rigondeaux.

sion. All of his shortcomings came back to haunt him. He was unable to cut off the ring, failed to set up his punches effectively and over-reached on power shots, which left him vulnerable to counters.

After three moderately entertaining rounds in which Rigondeaux got off first with straight lefts and crisp right hooks up top, he proceeded to stink out the joint ... run out the clock ... go into a four corners offense ... choose your metaphor. Before long, Donaire was frustrated and the fans were angry. There was sustained booing for much of the night.

The only issues were whether Rigondeaux would tire (he did, but not much) and what would happen if Donaire hit Guillermo flush on the chin. That eventuality came to pass in Round 10, when Rigondeaux went down from a left hook. But he got up.

This writer scored the bout 115-112 for Rigondeaux. The judges favored him by scores of 116-111, 115-112, 114-113.

What made the fight particularly unsatisfying was that Rigondeaux (unlike Pernell Whitaker, who was praised as a defensive master) didn't throw jabs as he moved. There were long periods of time when he all but ran away from the action. Trying to hit him was like trying to hit a moving nail with a hammer. Fighting like that might play well in the amateurs but not in the pro ranks. It's one of the reasons virtually no one in the United States watches amateur boxing anymore.

Donaire was gracious after the fight. "There's no excuse," he

said. "He beat me tonight. I only have respect for Rigondeaux and the beautiful boxing he gave me."

So, what's the problem? The object of the game is to hit and not get hit. Rigondeaux's tactics won the fight. The sport is called boxing, not fighting, isn't it?

"No!!!" thundered Larry Merchant. "It's prizefighting, not boxing. The Rockettes are supposed to be the dancers at Radio City Music Hall, not the fighters."

Merchant has a point. And then he makes another one.

"Rigondeaux was skimming the money that real fighters generate for the sport," he said. "If every fighter fought like Rigondeaux, there would be no money for anyone in boxing."

Agreed.

Rigondeaux fought within the rules and won the fight. It was his prerogative to fight the way he wanted to fight. But television network executives and fans have the right to say that seeing him fight again is a low priority.

Famed matchmaker Teddy Brenner once sat ringside at Madison Square Garden and watched a stylish avoid-getting-hit-at-any-cost boxer put round after round in the bank while a disgruntled crowd grew more and more restless. Midway through the bout, Brenner visited the fighter's corner and told his trainer, "If your guy doesn't start fighting, he'll never fight at The Garden again."

The pacifist won every round. True to his word, Brenner never used him at The Garden again.

A fighter who calls himself a "champion" owes the fans more than Guillermo Rigondeaux gave them on April 13. RING

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book (*Thomas Hauser on Sports: Remembering the Journey*) has just been published by the University of Arkansas Press.

QUICK QUIZ

1. THE RING RECORD BOOK CREDITS A FORMER WORLD LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION (PICTURED) WITH THE MEAGER TOTAL OF 18 KNOCKOUTS IN 289 FIGHTS. WHO WAS IT?

2. WHAT WAS THE LAST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT TO BE SCHEDULED FOR MORE THAN 15 ROUNDS?

3. WHO ARE APRIL FOWLER, TEELA REECE AND LAQUANDA LANDERS?

QUICK QUIZ ANSWERS 1. "Slapsie" Maxie Rosenbloom, who reigned from 1930 to 1934; 2. On Sept. 20, 1939, Joe Louis defended his title in a scheduled twenty-round bout against Bob Pastor. Louis won by knockout in the eleventh round; 3. Fowler, Reece, and Landers were the pro debut opponents respectively for Laila Ali, Jacqui Frazier and Freeda Foreman. Fowler had two fights in her pro career and was knocked out in the first round each time. Reece also had two professional fights and was stopped both times in the first round. Landers had only one pro fight (against Foreman) and was knocked out in the second round.

WHITAKER: Al Bello /Allsport; THE RING MAGAZINE ©

ADVANCED DEGREES

Degrees of separation between fighters of today and their predecessors. This month: Eddie Perkins, the first junior welterweight recognized as champion by the WBA and WBC, to current WBA and WBC titleholder (and RING champion) Danny Garcia. Perkins held his titles between 1962 and 1965.

EDDIE PERKINS
fought …
Nicolino Locche, who fought …

Antonio Cervantes, who fought …

Wilfredo Benitez, who fought …

Sugar Ray Leonard, who fought …

Hector Camacho, who fought …

Julio Cesar Chavez, who fought …

Kostya Tszyu, who fought …

Zab Judah, who fought …

DANNY GARCIA

FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT

By **Anson Wainwright**

JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ

FEATHERWEIGHT CONTENDER

MUSIC: I like salsa and my favorite singers are Marc Anthony and Victor Manuelle. Also I like reggaeton and my favorite singers are Don Omar, Tito El Bambino, Wisin y Yandel and Daddy Yankee. ★ **CAR:** I owned a Dodge Challenger SRT8 that I liked so much, but I want to have a Lamborghini. I like those cars. ★ **FOOD:** My favorite dish is rice and beans with pork chops. ★ **TATTOOS:** I have one tattoo with gloves and the names of my children, Juanma and Beliza, and one of the Juanma Lopez logo. ★ **ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING):** Michael Jordan, for his great career, definitely the best player in the history of the NBA. **MOVIE:** All of the *Fast and Furious* series, and also *Men of Honor*. **VIDEO GAME:** *Fight Night*.

MIKKEL KESSLER

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTENDER

MUSIC: My favorite band is Volbeat. "A Warrior's Call" is my walk-in song. We recorded it together. It was No. 1 in the U.S. charts [*Billboard*'s Active Rock list] and a huge hit all over Europe. ★ **CAR:** I currently own an Audi Q7, but I'm actually into very fast cars. I really like the Lamborghini Aventador. ★ **FOOD:** I only eat organic food. A healthy lifestyle is very important for me and gives me additional power in the ring. I even have my own company, Eco Protein, which (makes) organic protein bars for athletes. ★ **TATTOOS:** I love tattoos. I have a lot of them. They do not have a special meaning, but I always liked Vikings and the mythology. ★ **ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING):** I like Danish tennis player Caroline Wozniacki. We're good friends. And Michael Maze, European table tennis champion. ★ **MOVIE:** *Shawshank Redemption*. ★ **VIDEO GAME:** I'm old school so I have to go with *Command & Conquer: Generals – Zero Hour*. I love strategy games.

BERNARD HOPKINS

IBF LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT TITLEHOLDER

MUSIC: Jazz, R&B. ★ **CAR:** Old school cars. I have two. I've got a 1967 covertible Chevy Chevelle, and I have a 1966 hardtop, black red interior Lincoln Continental with side doors. ★ **FOOD:** Pasta, Italian. No white wine, though! ★ **TATTOOS:** No, none. I don't like needles. ★ **ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING):** Jim Brown. ★ **MOVIE:** *The Godfather*. ★ **VIDEO GAME:** Any boxing game.

PERKINS: THE RING MAGAZINE ©; GARCIA: Bob Levey/Getty Images; LOPEZ: ROBYN BECK/AFP/Getty Images; HOPKINS: Jeff Bottari/Getty Images

GOOD, BAD, WORSE

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By **Michael Rosenthal**

GOOD

The announcement came about a half century too late but it is a positive step nonetheless. Cuban authorities have decided to lift a ban on professional boxing by allowing their fighters to take part in the semipro World Series of Boxing. The communist nation will be represented in the 12-team league, which is administered by AIBA. The fighters stand to make between $1,000 and $3,000 each month. There is no indication whether Cubans will ultimately be allowed to compete freely in the professional ranks but our fingers our crossed. Great fighters like Teofilo Stevenson had no hope of testing their abilities against the best in the world. Maybe soon his countrymen will have that opportunity.

BAD

I applaud Floyd Mayweather Jr. for deciding to fight Saul "Canelo" Alvarez on Sept. 14 in what will be a tremendous event. He could've selected a safer foe and still walked away with a fortune. I'm not as crazy about Mayweather's demand that the fight take place at a catch weight of 152 pounds. Mayweather originally said the fight would have to take place at 147; 152 is much preferable to that. Still, I would've liked to see Mayweather fight Alvarez when the Mexican is at his best, which is at 154 pounds. And Mayweather wouldn't be seen as seizing an advantage, which reflects poorly on him. After all, 'Money' does hold a 154-pound belt.

WORSE

I could spend all day every day lamenting the state of the heavyweight division. Joe Louis had his "Bum of the Month Club," a string of unworthy opponents he generally dispatched with ease. I think Wladimir Klitschko's club is at least as dire, at least over the past five years. No one in his last nine fights has given him anything resembling a challenge, the last victim being Francesco Pianeta on May 4. The Ukrainian's fights are clinical demonstrations of utter dominance, not competitive sport. No drama whatsoever. And that doesn't figure to change. Alexander Povetkin? No. Tyson Fury? Ha. Deontay Wilder? Too soon. Why even pay attention?

A MONTHLY BOXING LIST:

TEN

This month: Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s most important victories.

GENARO HERNANDEZ, TKO 8, Oct. 3, 1998:
Stopped respected champion to win first title.

EMANUEL AUGUSTUS, TKO 9, Oct. 21, 2000:
Mayweather calls this his toughest fight.

DIEGO CORRALES, TKO 10, Jan. 20, 2001:
Corrales came in undefeated and feared.

JOSE LUIS CASTILLO I, UD 12, April 20, 2002:
Mayweather had to dig deep to win.

JOSE LUIS CASTILLO II, UD 12, Dec. 7, 2002:
Another close fight against his rival.

ARTURO GATTI, TKO 6, June 25, 2005:
Mayweather's first pay-per-view main event.

ZAB JUDAH, UD 12, April 8, 2006:
Some thought Judah had the skills to test Mayweather.

OSCAR DE LA HOYA, SD 12, May 5, 2007:
Went up in weight to face sport's biggest star.

RICKY HATTON, TKO 10, Dec. 8, 2007:
Undefeated Hatton was major star in UK.

MIGUEL COTTO, UD 12, May 5, 2012:
Most recent test against future Hall of Famer.

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS

Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s dominating victory over Robert Guerrero on May 4 had people asking once again: Can anyone compete with this guy? Well, we know who the fans want to be the next one to try. We asked simply: Who should Floyd Mayweather Jr. fight next? Here are the results.

THE PERCENTAGES:

Saul "Canelo" Alvarez	68.1
Amir Khan	12.3
Adrien Broner-Paulie Malignaggi winner	11.2
Erislandy Lara-Alfredo Angulo winner	4.3
Devon Alexander	4.1

***Note:** 10,697 readers voted. Also, the poll was posted before the Broner-Malignaggi and Lara-Angulo fights took place.*

LARRY HOLMES

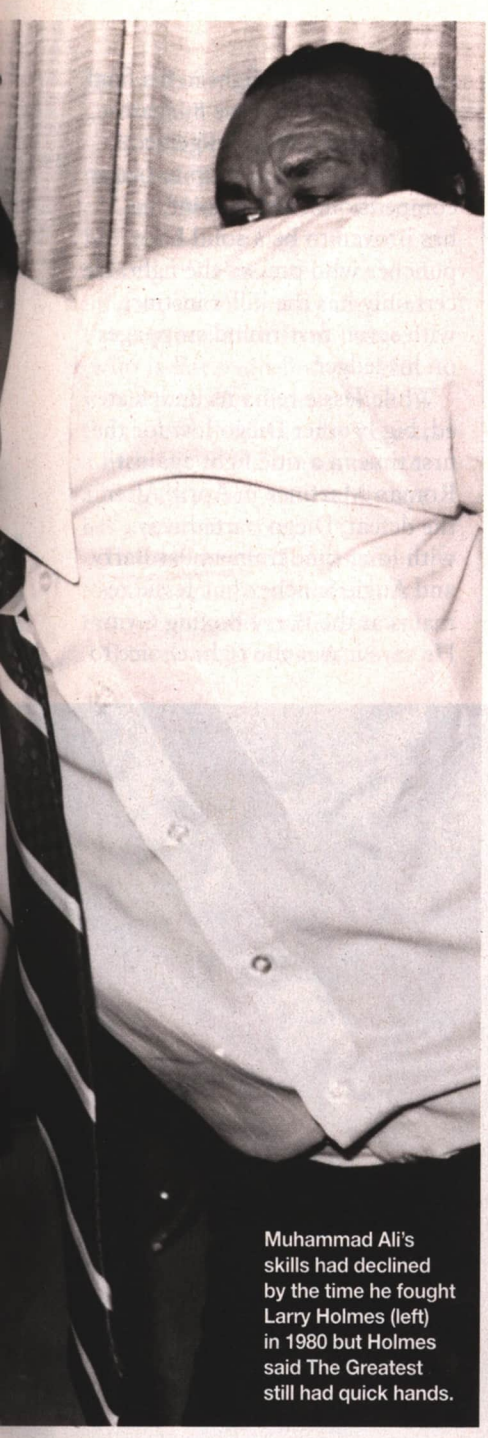
By **Anson Wainwright**

Larry Holmes might be the most underappreciated heavyweight of the past half century.

His timing wasn't good. Holmes became the division's standard bearer immediately following the sport's greatest icon, Muhammad Ali, who dominated The Golden Era of heavyweights in the 1970s.

Despite being overshadowed by his predecessor, though, no one can question Holmes' credentials as one of the all-time greats. He defeated Ken Norton in the summer of 1978 to win his first heavyweight title and reigned atop the division for seven long years, making 20 successful defenses.

Only Joe Louis and Wladimir



Muhammad Ali's skills had declined by the time he fought Larry Holmes (left) in 1980 but Holmes said The Greatest still had quick hands.

Klitschko have held at least one major heavyweight title longer and only Louis had more defenses than Holmes.

Holmes (69-6, 44 knockouts) used a legendary jab and exceptional all-around ability to build a record of 48-0, one victory shy of Rocky Marciano's career total of 49-0, by the mid-1980s. And he fought a who's who of accomplished heavyweights during a career that spanned parts of four decades, including Ali, Earnie Shavers, Gerry Cooney, Michael Spinks, Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield.

Holmes' perfect record and championship reign ended when he was beaten by Michael Spinks in September 1985. The Easton Assassin, who took his nickname from his hometown in Pennsylvania, would try four times to regain a major title – against Spinks, Tyson, Holyfield and Oliver McCall – but failed each time.

However, those who understand what he accomplished in the ring will always remember him as one of the best who ever lived.

THE RING recently caught up with Holmes. He was asked to share with us the best he faced in 10 key categories.

★

BEST OVERALL

Ken Norton

The best I ever fought was Kenny Norton because he was big, strong and determined, a lot of ability, punches hard. Ken Norton was the best, I would say. You got Earnie Shavers, Muhammad Ali, of course, and there's a lot of great fighters who I can't remember the names of right now.

Holmes (right) said Ken Norton was the best overall fighter he ever faced.

BEST BOXER

I don't know. I was so good, they were all the same.

BEST JAB

Carl "The Truth" Williams and Michael Dokes

I did not fight Michael Dokes. He had a good jab. I worked with him in the gym. It was a very good jab. Carl Williams he had a very good jab, too. What made it so good? It was like mine!

BEST DEFENSE

Carl Williams

I would say outside of me, Carl Williams had a good defense. He was hard to hit.

BEST CHIN

Everybody I hit, they went! I respect everyone's chin.

BEST PUNCHER

Earnie Shavers

If he hits you, he knocks you out. He mostly knocked everybody out that he hit. I had a good defense but he knocked the s--t out of me a lot of times and it hurt. Earnie Shavers hurt you if he hit you.

FASTEST HANDS

Carl Williams and Muhammad Ali

I never had a problem seeing them but they were the fastest.

FASTEST FEET

Carl Williams

I don't know. Maybe Carl Williams because he was more a boxer like me.

SMARTEST

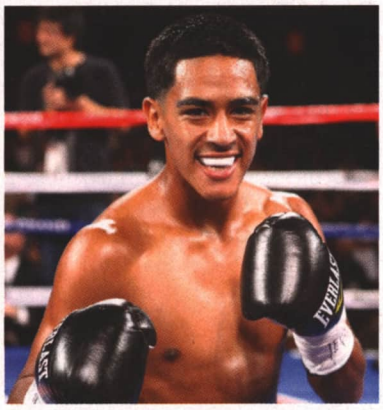
I really don't know. I never looked at it that way.

STRONGEST

Nobody stood out as being exceptionally strong, though Earnie Shavers was strong.

The Ring Magazine/Getty Images

JESSIE MAGDALENO



By **Mike Coppinger**

THE ESSENTIALS
Age: 21
Weight class: Junior featherweight
Height: 5-foot-4
Stance: Southpaw
Nickname: Pitbull
Hometown: Las Vegas
Record: 14-0 (10 knockouts)

The brothers Klitschko (Wladimir and Vitali) and Marquez (Juan Manuel and Rafael) compose perhaps the two greatest brother tandems of all time. Certainly, no other active pair compares.

But that doesn't mean there aren't others to keep an eye on.

Brothers Jessie and Diego Magdaleno, from the fight capital of Las Vegas, are climbing the ranks. And while it's Diego who is rated by THE RING (at 130 pounds), Jessie might be the one with the greatest potential.

Top Rank matchmaker Bruce Trampler says Jessie "has a zest for fighting (and) seems to really enjoy it."

"He's pretty much got all the tools," continued Trampler, who was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2010. "He's a good boxer, pretty fair puncher; as far as I know he takes a punch. ... He's a kid who wants to be a world champion. I don't mean he just says he wants to be. He has the burning desire to be a champion, and you don't see that in every fighter. Fighters pay lip service, but he really lives it."

While we don't know much about Jessie as a pro, we're bound to find out soon. The 2009 U.S. Amateur National champion and National Golden Gloves champ was set to fight in his final eight-rounder on June 8, against journeyman Carlos Fulgenico, after which he'll step up to better competition. To this point, he has proven to be a solid body puncher who presses the fight. He certainly has the killer instinct, with seven first-round stoppages on his ledger.

While Jessie remains undefeated, big brother Diego lost for the first time in a title fight against Roman Martinez in April. After the defeat, Diego parted ways with long-time trainers Pat Barry and Augie Sanchez but Jessie remains at the Barry Boxing Gym. He says it was the right choice to

Matchmaker Bruce Trampler said that prospect Jessie Magdaleno (left) "has all the tools."

Jeff Bottari/Getty Images

stay with the man (Pat) who has guided him since he was a child.

"Pat's like a father figure to me; Augie's like an older brother," said Jessie, whose younger brother Marco is a top amateur as well. "We're just like a nice, unique, strong family together. I've learned a lot from Augie (who is Pat's son-in-law). He was a real slick fighter back in the day. Still to this day he puts a little bit of his moves on me and it surprises me. He always has me on my toes."

Though they no longer train together on a regular basis, the brothers remain as close as ever.

"I think we'll come down in history and be brothers who make it," Jessie said. "He's taught me pretty much everything that I know. He taught me how to move around. ... He's more of a boxer-puncher. ... I'm more of an all-around fighter."

Jessie hopes to avoid the same fate as Diego and win a title in the near future. He says he's "getting closer and closer."

"Sky's the limit. I want it all," Jessie said. "I know we're still in the beginning, but in 2013, I'm gonna put myself on the map and let everyone know who I am. 2013 is my year. I'm going to show everyone what I'm capable of." RING

THREE MORE TO WATCH

ELEIDER ALVAREZ, LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT (12-0, 8 KOS)

Alvarez is a big puncher who is on the cusp of a meaningful hometown fight in fight-crazed Montreal. The 29-year-old Colombian has knockout power in both hands and stalks his opponents from the onset. He is promoted by Yvon Michele's GYM.

JESSE HART, SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT (6-0, 5 KOS)

Jesse Hart is the son of 70's middleweight contender Eugene Hart, who was named to THE RING's list of 100 Greatest Punchers in 2003. The 23-year-old Philadelphian compiled a reported amateur record of 85-11 en route to multiple national titles in 2011. Thus far, Jesse seems to have inherited his father's punching prowess. He is promoted by Top Rank.

HUGO CENTENO, JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT (18-0, 9 KOS)

Centeno went the 10-round distance for the first time in his last outing, a decision victory over undefeated KeAndrae Leatherwood. The victory cemented Centeno, 22, as a bona fide prospect. Centeno had a reported 90-9 record as an amateur. He is promoted by Golden Boy.

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Dave Alan

Amanda Paris

Height: 5-foot-3
Weight: 110 pounds
Measurements: 34-24-36
Stance: Orthodox
Favorite Boxer: Sugar Ray Leonard
Hometown: Chicago
Current Location: Chicago
Booking Info: Bookings@amandaparis.com

Dawn Allen

Amanda Paris

THE RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH BY: **HEATHER SHANHOLTZ**

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Floyd Mayweather Jr. proved against Robert Guerrero that he still has what has made him one of the best fighters of his era.

MAYWEATHER CAN STILL BACK UP THE BRAVADO

Challenger Robert Guerrero never really had a chance on May 4

By **David Greisman**

Floyd Mayweather Jr. is rather self-centered and ridiculously self-confident, but those typically negative traits of narcissism and arrogance have brought him success, made him prosperous and kept him victorious.

He can still be thin-skinned: Witness the shouting matches on TV with Brian Kenny and on the radio with R.A. the Rugged Man, and recall that he once boycotted this magazine because of how it ranked him. Any insecurity only pushes him to keep his place in the sport secure. He is a tough nut to crack because he does not want to be proven wrong.

Robert Guerrero promptly found out how tough it is to crack Mayweather, being disarmed as effectively as he had been during his gun possession arrest weeks beforehand at a New York airport. He soon learned how big a difference there is between Andre Berto and Mayweather. Berto merely attempted the shoulder-roll defense, while Mayweather long ago

Naoki Fukuda

Mayweather is as clever in the decisions he makes leading up to a fight as he is in the ring.

perfected it. Beating Berto raised Guerrero in the rankings, which in turn only allowed Mayweather to give him a spanking.

Guerrero believed he had the style to catch Mayweather and that he was catching Mayweather at the right time, that Mayweather was slowing down at 36 and would be further hampered by a yearlong layoff, including two months in jail. Guerrero had forgotten why Mayweather picked him: because he was good enough to compete in this pay-per-view main event, but Mayweather was still great enough to keep him from being competitive.

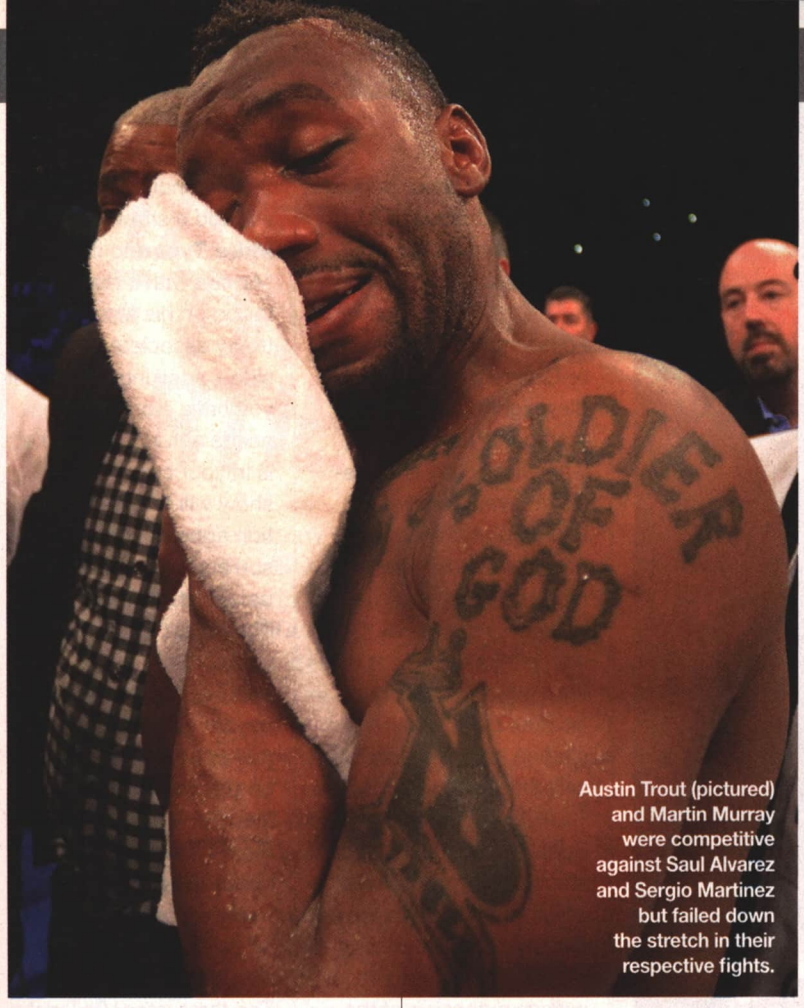
Mayweather prefers betting slips over stock tips and is a high-stakes gambler when it comes to other sports. He is of a far different mind, however, regarding his own career. Instead, he is a businessman whose rewards are maximized and guaranteed, with the amount of risk left nearly completely in his own hands rather than those of his opponent.

While a smart gambler still needs luck, a wise businessman leaves nothing to chance. Mayweather still dedicates himself to training hard and sparring even harder, recognizing that he needs to keep his skills sharp if he wants to rely on them. And to keep his stock from crashing on fight night, he knows better than to be caught trading in the wrong exchanges.

That's because he's in the market for nine figures' worth of paychecks before he retires. His brash personality got him recognized by the mainstream audience, who then saw his brilliant talent. At least a million people paid to see him, and not Guerrero, either rooting for him to win or hoping he would lose.

If at some point in his next five bouts we see him in a fight in which we think he could be defeated, it will be because that

Mayweather: Naoki Fukuda; Trout: Donald Miralle/Golden Boy/Golden Boy via Getty Images



Austin Trout (pictured) and Martin Murray were competitive against Saul Alvarez and Sergio Martinez but failed down the stretch in their respective fights.

is the best deal that can be made. It won't be from the current crop of junior welterweights and welterweights, no matter how deep those divisions are, not so long as Mayweather remains a superlative superstar.

These five fights will preserve his record and his riches, which give him two reasons he doesn't need to prove anything else to anyone else. The only way he will face even bigger challenges is for even bigger paychecks — and that is all the motivation he will need to be fully prepared to conquer and then cash in.

★

Some would say Canelo Alvarez and Sergio Martinez got lucky. It would be more appropriate to describe them as fortunate.

They were fortunate that they were fighting in places where the WBC's "open scoring" system was allowed, which meant they learned the scores every four rounds. They were fortunate that the judges somehow saw them so clearly ahead in what seemed to be competitive bouts against Austin Trout and Martin Murray, respectively.

And they were fortunate that Trout and Murray didn't (or couldn't) push the action in the final four rounds of the fight, that they wouldn't work for the win despite knowing that they were behind, and despite the fact that each desperately needed a victory to advance his career.

Trout and Murray were clearly the B-sides in against A-list attractions. Alvarez drew almost 40,000 people to a stadium in Texas. The fight gave Canelo a chance to prove himself against a legitimate challenger at junior middleweight. A win would potentially land him a pay-per-view main event later in the year, perhaps against Mayweather or Miguel Cotto.

Martinez, meanwhile, brought tens of thousands in his native Argentina to watch him defend his middleweight championship. A lucrative rematch with Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. was being mulled for the not-too-distant future.

If these are the kinds of opportunities Trout and Murray desire, then they need to dig deeper and show why they deserve them. Trout had toiled in relative anonymity while other 154-pound fighters got more television time and bigger fights. Trout's win over Cotto last December changed that and landed him this fight with Alvarez. This loss sends him back further than he had been before.

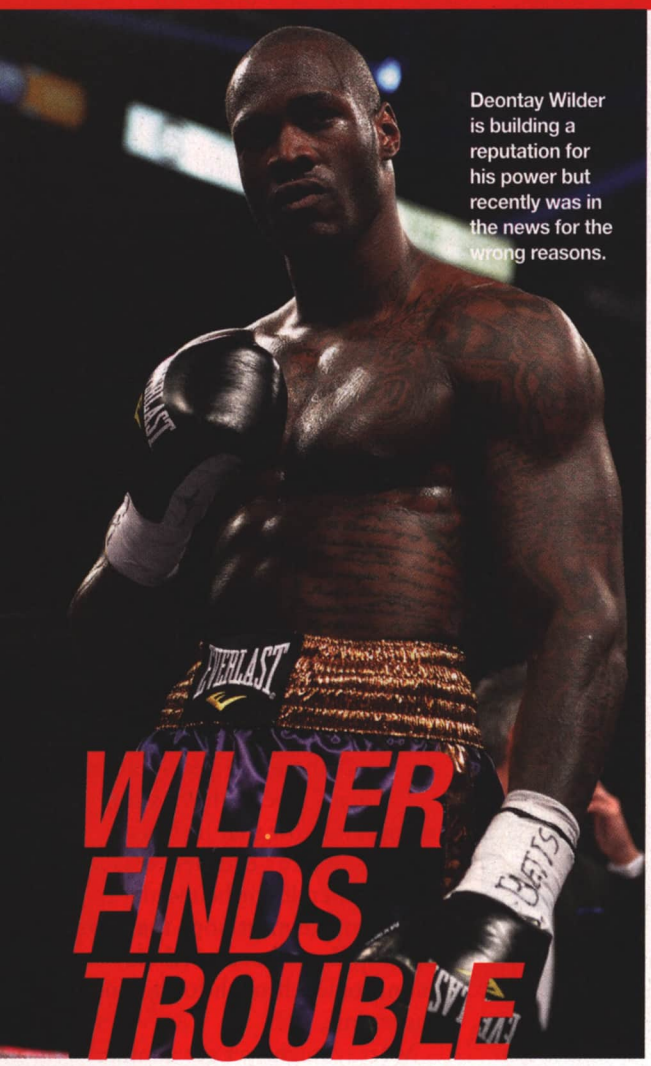
Trout still doesn't have a big name, and now that he has no title belt, there's even less reason for a contender or beltholder to face him. He must hope that his advisor, the influential Al Haymon, comes through for him one more time.

Murray might yet get another chance, given the number of noteworthy fighters in his division who will need opponents. He wouldn't have to wait, however, had he earned the bargaining chip of being the lineal champion and a world titleholder.

Given the arguments that came afterward over the scoring for Alvarez-Trout and Martinez-Murray, both losers could say that they were three judges' debatable cards away from victory, from being closer to the promise of TV dates and the guaranteed windfall from lucrative paydays that tend to be reserved for the well-connected, well-represented or well-accomplished.

It's harder to complain about being robbed, though, when you can see it coming and nevertheless don't do anything to stop it. RING

By **Brian Harty**



Deontay Wilder is building a reputation for his power but recently was in the news for the wrong reasons.

WILDER FINDS TROUBLE

Heavyweight **Deontay Wilder**, who has yet to experience the wonders of Round 5 in his boxing career, was arrested while in Las Vegas to watch the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Robert Guerrero fight.

Police arrived at a hotel on the Strip around 7:30 a.m. on May 4 to find a woman bearing injuries, including a possibly broken nose and marks on her neck, and charged Wilder with felony domestic violence-strangulation. His attorney, Paul Patterson, described the woman to TheSweetScience.com as "an acquaintence (who) could not be described as a paramor" of the married fighter and somewhat cryptically explained in another report that "Deontay instinctively acted under the false impression that someone was stealing from him." Patterson also said the victim had accepted Wilder's apology.

Even so, it remained unclear at press time whether the charge would preclude Wilder from traveling for his scheduled June 15 bout against **Dereck Chisora** in London. In the meantime, "The Bronze Bomber" became the latest pugilist to sign with advisor **Al "The Golden Goose" Haymon**.

Following the Mayweather-Guerrero card, middleweight "Money Team" member **J'Leon Love**, who won an iffy split-decision over **Gabriel Rosado** on the undercard, tested positive for a banned diuretic called hydrochlorothiazide. He'll now face a hearing to determine any suspension or other penalties, including having the victory switched to a no-contest.

Speaking of unusual substances, **Jägermeister** donated $50,000 to the fledgling Nevada Boxing Hall of Fame. The gift was an extension of the liquor company's latest ad campaign featuring International Boxing Hall of Fame trainer **Freddie Roach**.

Former welterweight champion **Ricardo Mayorga** (a man who needs no licorice-flavored help to be crazy) made his MMA debut in Nicaragua against **Wesley Tiffer**. Mayorga reportedly welcomed Tiffer at the airport with a barrage of insults, came in 20 pounds overweight and then kneed his opponent in the back to get a TKO win. The move was later deemed illegal and the result changed to a no-contest. But in his defense, he *is* Ricardo Mayorga.

Cartoon Network's Adult Swim announced that it will add a show featuring **Mike Tyson** to its lineup: "Armed with a magical tattoo on his face and a trusty associate by his side – a talking pigeon – if you have a problem that needs solving, Iron Mike is in your corner." The show will feature live-action appearances by Tyson and will appropriately be called *Mike Tyson Mysteries*.

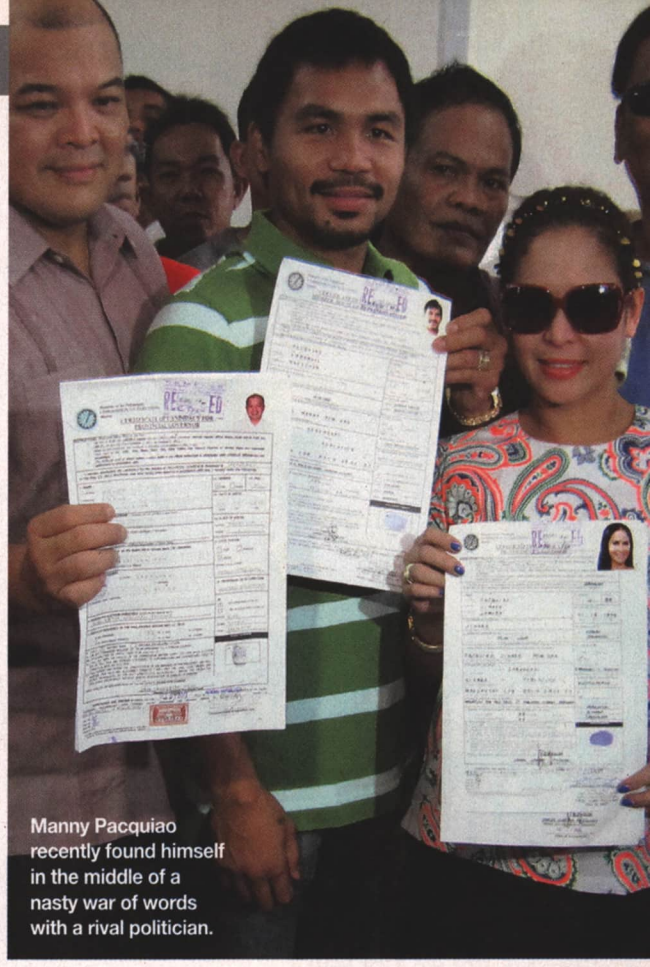
Johnny Bos, the flamboyant New York matchmaker who helped develop the careers of Tyson, **Paulie Malignaggi, Gerry Cooney** and **Jameel McCline**, among many others, died on May 11 at the age of 61.

The three-story Philadelphia building that once housed **Joe Frazier's Gym**, as well as the heavyweight icon himself, was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The gym's name is still clearly visible even though a furniture gallery is now housed there. Also, **Lawrence J. Nowlan** was chosen as the artist who will create a sculpture of Frazier for the city. It will stand outside the Xfinity Live! complex near Philadelphia's three sports stadiums, hopefully by spring 2014.

Oh, and *Sports Illustrated* is projecting **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** to be the highest-paid athlete in the world again this year. He apparently makes a lot of money. Who knew?

WILDER: ANDREW YATES/AFP/Getty Images; PACQUIAO: PAUL BERNALDEZ/AFP/Getty Images

A TALE OF TWO PARTIES



Manny Pacquiao recently found himself in the middle of a nasty war of words with a rival politician.

For anyone who saw the recent *VICE* documentary on HBO about the perilous nature of politics in the Philippines – reports of more than 1,200 political assassinations in the past decade – a tale that starts with rice and ends with a fist fight probably sounds pretty shrug-worthy. And it should be noted that "truth" was still a work-in-progress at press time. Still, this "he said-he said" involves an old friend, so here goes:

The first account came from the barangay (district) chairman of San Jose in General Santos City, Alfredo Belgica. He told *The Manila Times* that Manny Pacquiao, who readers may remember as a very popular welterweight who made a fortune fighting in the United States in the early 21st century, rolled into San Jose with a five-car convoy full of rice and bodyguards. The rice, along with cash and other goods, was handed out to "encourage" local voters to pick Pacquiao's friend, Ronnel Rivera, as their new mayor. The bodyguards, Belgica said, were present to "discourage" anyone from suggesting otherwise.

Belgica, who supports the incumbent mayor, wasn't discouraged, though – maybe because Pacquiao's convoy only had five cars (the *VICE* correspondent traveled with a politician who used 50) – and threatened to file vote-buying charges. That, he said, is when Pacquiao and his bodyguards beat him into an approximation of Antonio Margarito circa Nov. 14, 2010. (Google the photos if your memory needs a jog.)

According to Belgica, Pacquiao was arrested and taken to the local police station, but was never questioned because his lawyer, Geng Gacal, quickly arrived and evacuated him. This was an injustice, said Belgica.

Now for the other side.

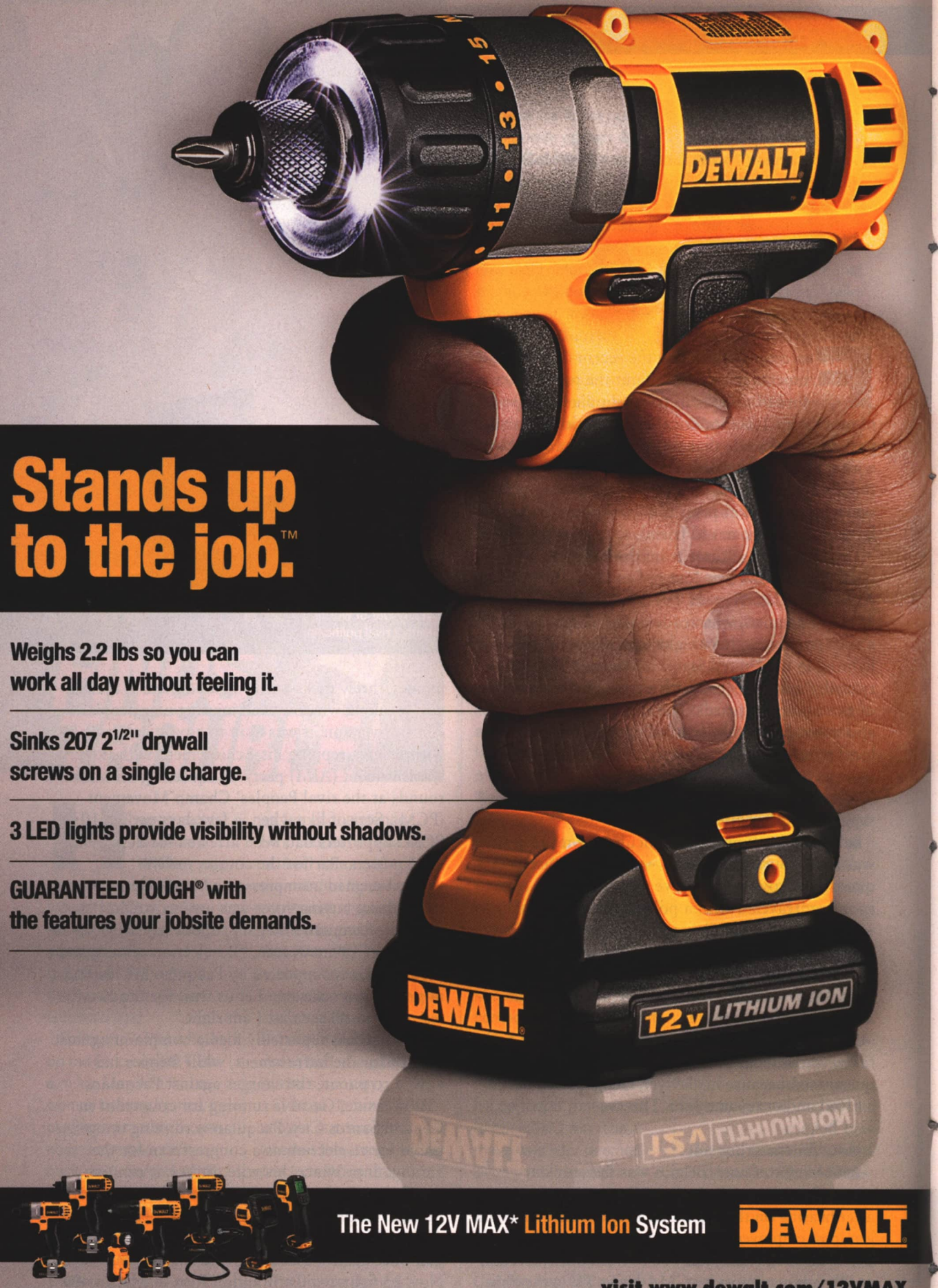
According to Gacal, Belgica was the only one arrested. Pacquiao went to the police station himself after hearing on the radio that Belgica had attacked a group of employees who were delivering rice to their headquarters in San Jose. The overzealous chairman, as related in a report by *GMA News TV* in the Philippines, threw rocks and even fired shots at the convoy, breaking windows and injuring nine people.

In this version, it was akin to a political drive-by, with Belgica repping his Achievement with Integrity Movement (AIM) party by squeezing off a few rounds at the rival Peoples' Champ Movement (PCM). Sort of like when, a few days earlier, 10 PCM supporters had been arrested for destroying AIM posters. Par for the course, really.

Gacal seemed unimpressed by it all. He said the story about buying votes was just an attempt to discredit Pacquiao and gain support for AIM. As he told ABS-CBNnews.com, "It's election season, and the candidates supported by Pacquiao are leading in pre-election surveys. Let us wait for the paraffin test, and you'll see that I am right."

Pacquiao has reportedly filed a complaint against Belgica for the harrassment, while Belgica has vowed to pursue the charges against Pacquiao.

As an aside, Gacal is running for councillor in General Santos City, Pacquiao is running unopposed for re-election as a congressman for the Sarangani province, his wife, Jinkee, is running for vice-governor of Sarangani, and his youngest brother, Rogelio, is also running for a House seat. All of which means that Pacquiao's "distractions" will once again be a storyline in the build-up to his Nov. 23 fight against Brandon Rios in Macau.



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THE ROAD(WORK) TO SUCCESS

By **Scott LaFee**

Outside of, say, notably well-rounded boxers like Eric "King of the 4-Rounders" Esch, otherwise known as "Butterbean," boxing has traditionally demanded that its practitioners be reasonably fit and well-conditioned.

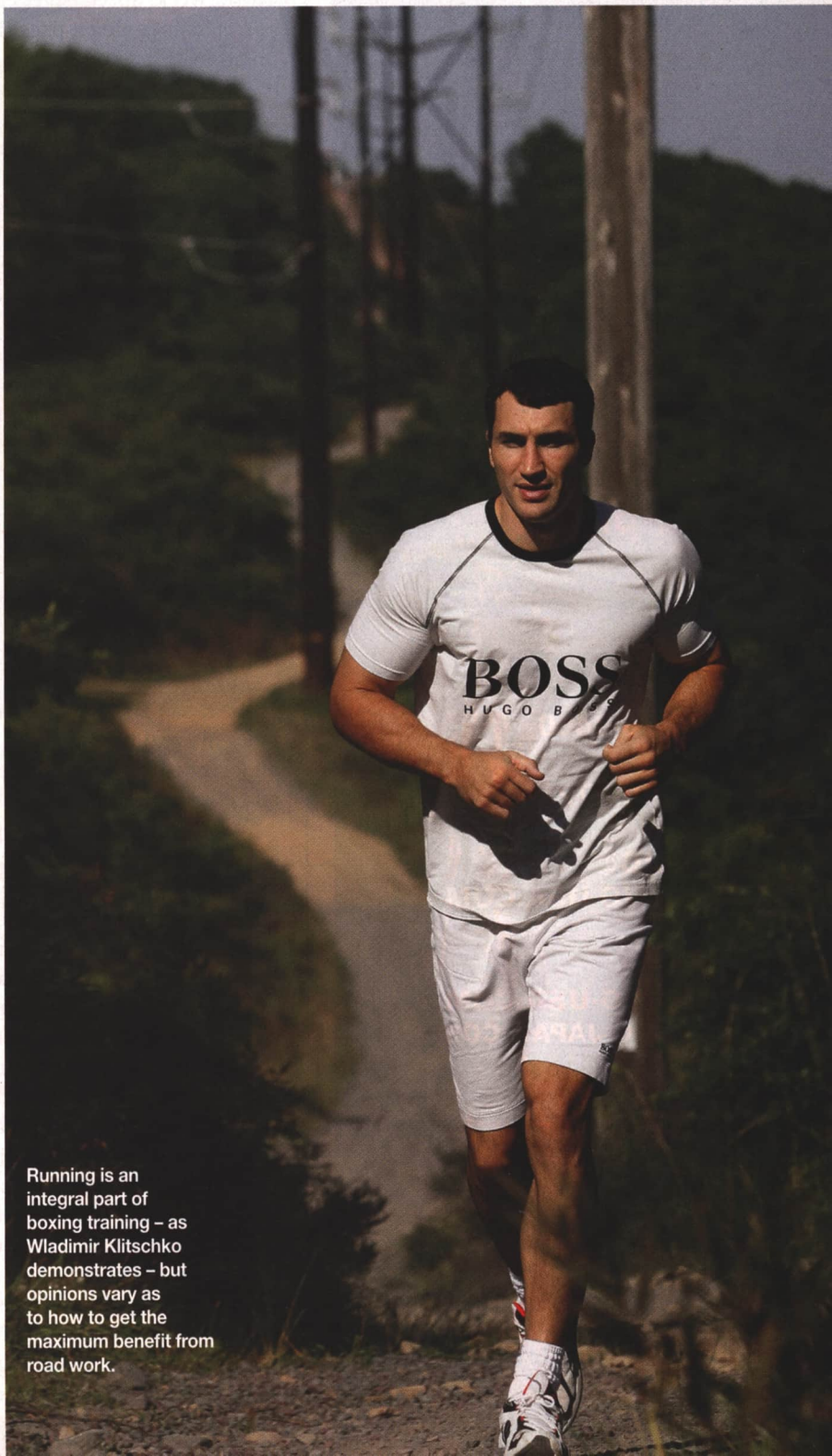
In other words, while a good boxer doesn't necessarily run around a lot in the ring, it's generally assumed they've run plenty outside it.

But how essential is running to boxing? The image of the sweats-clad boxer-in-training out for a long, morning run is proverbial pugilism. It may also be misleading.

Fundamentally, boxers run to improve cardiovascular function, to build sufficient stamina and strength so that they can fight effectively from first round to last. Not unlike weight-lifting, running done right is about extending physiological limits, specifically lung capacity and circulatory efficiencies so that more oxygenated blood reaches muscles in need.

That much seems self-evident. A right uppercut with the kick of a mule is half-assed if the puncher's oxygen-depleted legs and body are weak and wobbly.

For generations, amateur and professional boxers alike have sworn by the value of doing the requisite "roadwork." The U.S. Military Academy at West Point's boxing manual says if boxers are limited to just one form of workout, it should be running. The late "Smokin'" Joe Frazier (1944-



Running is an integral part of boxing training – as Wladimir Klitschko demonstrates – but opinions vary as to how to get the maximum benefit from road work.

Alexander Hassenstein/Bongarts/Getty Images

2011), whose storied professional career included a victory over Muhammad Ali in 1971's "Fight of the Century," claimed roadwork was the most important thing a boxer could do.

OK, let's assume every boxer runs. The question then becomes, "How much running is enough?"

The recommended distance varies by expert and boxer, but a general rule-of-thumb seems to be five miles a day, three to five days a week. Speed isn't generally considered to be as important as maintaining a pace that sufficiently elevates heart and breathing rates.

For many "old-school" trainers, according to strength and conditioning coach Alex Ariza, that's usually where the conversation ends. "You do the hard surface roadwork and then back to the gym," he said.

But Ariza, who specializes in training boxers like Manny Pacquiao (though recently he worked with sore-kneed Andrew Bynum of the Philadelphia 76ers), says plain vanilla running is utterly inadequate to the actual aerobic requirements of the ring.

"Running tends to produce a consistent pace and conditioning demand. Boxing is up and down, with highs and lows," Ariza said. "It seems very obvious that you have to create a training program that is relevant to what boxers actually experience."

Ariza and others argue that training runs should mimic boxing matches: Two or three minutes of frenetic activity followed by one minute of rest. Repeat 12 to 15 times. For a footloose boxer, this approach might translate into a series of short, heart-racing timed sprints interspersed within a longer, slower run.

Darryl Hudson, a Southern California-based trainer who ran track at San Diego State University in the mid-1980s, combines interval training with hill running and resistance drills – all intended, he says, to improve how a boxer taps his strength and energy resources.

"When a boxer throws a punch, he's holding his breath," said Hudson. "People don't realize it, but we all do it. Think about when you have to twist open a tight jar of peanut butter. You pinch your mouth closed, stop breathing and exert yourself. Boxers do that hundreds of times in a match, so their bodies need to be efficient in how they use energy."

Varied running regimes help keep boxers engaged in their training, though Ariza said they often drop or reduce the exercise after a fight. That's understandable. Few boxers actually enjoy running. If they did, they'd be runners. And after weeks of intense preparation and a night of punishment (given and taken), most fighters need time to decompress and recuperate.

However, Ariza and Hudson both say it's best if boxers don't give up running – or at least take up an alternative aerobic activity. (The 5-foot-7 Pacquiao reportedly favors basketball.) Staying on track with their running makes it easier to prepare for the next fight, said Hudson.

"Everybody worries about over-training, but I don't think you can," he said. "Running and aerobicizing helps keep your weight down, muscles lean and blood circulating. You can't over-do that." RING

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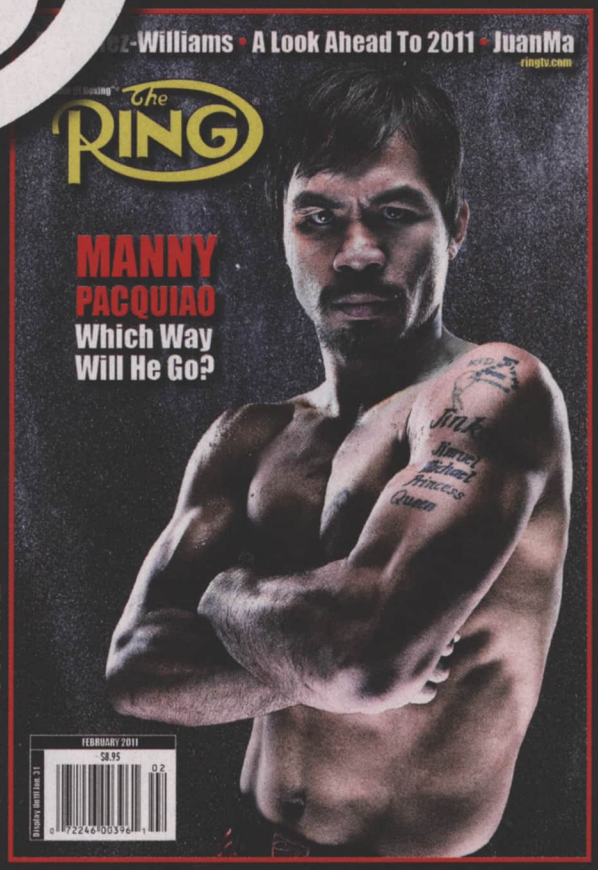

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SUE FOX: STANDARD BEARER

Former fighter is the pied piper of women's boxing

By **Thomas Gerbasi**

Sue Fox created and runs Women Boxing Archive Network, the go-to website for any and all things relating to women's boxing.

It may be hard to believe, given her status as a women's boxing pioneer and advocate for the sport years after she hung up the gloves, but Sue Fox may have chosen a different combat sports path if she were competing today: mixed martial arts.

"I actually preferred what we called 'full contact,' and that was probably what I was best in because I was undefeated as a full-contact karate fighter," she said. "So that would be a big possibility, yes."

And why not? Women's MMA is growing by the day and is featured regularly in national magazines and on television. Women's boxing can't say the same, with TV dates scarce, major promoters unwilling to sign female fighters to serious long-term contracts and media apathy keeping it out of the public eye.

But that hasn't stopped Fox, a pro boxer from 1976 to 1979 and owner of the Women Boxing Archive Network (WBAN) website – womenboxing.com – from tirelessly trying to build a sport and support its fighters at a time when they need her the most.

"I feel that the female boxers need an advocate," said Fox, a former police officer. "There are things that happen in the sport that I do not like, and I'm very vocal. I looked at the big picture, and all the female fighters needed some kind of support in

the media. And I could care less if it was a Laila Ali or if it was a fighter who had one fight. I tried not to ever put one fighter over another when I was doing coverage. It was just for the women."

The website, which Fox launched in 1998, is the only game in town for comprehensive coverage of women's boxing, whether it's news, fight reports, profiles, interviews or records. But her role in women's boxing extends beyond that, as she's regularly approached for advice by fighters who are seeking answers only someone who has been in their shoes can provide.

"I feel that they (the fighters) are afraid to say things, so I'll step in and I'll talk about what's happening in the sport because nobody can hurt me," she said. "They can't buy me off and I don't manage fighters, so I didn't have any particular fighters that I'm trying to push. I just wanted to stay there for them."

The roots of this endeavor were planted when Fox made the move from karate to boxing in 1976. Before Christy Martin, before Lucia Rijker and before Laila Ali, there was Fox, known as "Tiger Lilly," who competed in around a dozen pro and exhibition bouts before calling it quits to pursue her career in law enforcement. And if you think things are rough for women in the sport today, it's Camelot compared to what Fox and her peers endured.

"When I got out of boxing, I hated boxing," she said. "I noticed that when I first got into the sport, I fought scientifically and more like a martial artist. I tried not to get hit. And towards the end I found that I became more of just a brawler. I had my jaw knocked to the side three times sparring with guys because you didn't spar with too many women. And I noticed that I was starting to take a punch for a punch and I didn't like that. So I decided to get out of the sport before I scrambled my brain."

Nearly two decades later, she rediscovered the sport during Martin's heyday and found out that most of the information on the internet regarding the history of women's boxing was inaccurate. You can guess what happened next.

"The history was absolutely incorrect and I knew it because I was a fighter then," she said. "That's what gave me the idea to do a historical women's boxing website, never even thinking that I would end up covering it with all the current fighters."

But here she is, still fighting the good fight, this time not with her fists but with her keyboard and the knowledge that this game still has something to offer, not just to the fans, but to the fighters.

"I'm a positive person, and I'm always hoping for the fighters that there is a light at the end of the tunnel for them," she said. "Being on the net since 1998, I've seen the fight game go up and down, and if we can get it consistently going up, there will be a light." RING

"I feel that the female boxers need an advocate. There are things that happen in the sport that I do not like, and I'm very vocal." — SUE FOX

POUND FOR POUND

1. CECILIA BRAEKHUS, Norway
22-0 (6 KOs)
Welterweight

2. MELISSA HERNANDEZ, U.S.
18-3-3 (6 KOs)
Featherweight

3. AVA KNIGHT, U.S.
12-1-3 (5 KOs)
Flyweight

4. ANNE SOPHIE MATHIS, France
26-3 (22 KOs)
Junior middleweight

5. LAYLA MCCARTER, U.S.
35-13-5 (8 KOs)
Junior middleweight

6. YESICA YOLANDA BOPP, Argentina
24-0 (11 KOs),
Flyweight

7. FRIDA WALLBERG, Sweden
11-0 (2 KOs)
Junior lightweight

8. ERICA ANABELLA FARIAS, Argentina
16-0 (9 KOs)
Lightweight

9. CHRISTINA HAMMER, Germany
14-0 (7 KOs)
Middleweight/Super middleweight

10. MARIANA JUAREZ, Mexico
36-7-3 (16 KOs)
Junior bantamweight

Through fights of May 19

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.

By **Michael Rosenthal**

It was business as usual for Floyd Mayweather Jr. against Robert Guerrero on May 4 – another dominating victory.

Those who appreciate the artistic side of boxing had to love what they saw on May 4 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Floyd Mayweather Jr. painted a masterpiece.

Robert Guerrero, his opponent that night, is a very good, proven veteran with uncommon mental toughness. And Mayweather (44-0, 26 knockouts) made him look like a clueless newbie. That's how good Mayweather was.

And it wasn't just his defensive skills, for which he is renowned. Yes, he was as elusive as ever. Guerrero barely touched him, landing only 19 percent of his punches. Mayweather also picked apart his prey in clinical fashion, landing a ridiculous 60 percent of his power punches to win nine of the 12 rounds on all three cards (117-111).

It was beautiful to watch even if his dominance precluded any significant drama and frustrated some fans, who craved a competitive fight or at least some action.

And it seemed to quash any notion that the 36-year-old had lost a step, which seemed to be the case in a tougher-than-expected unanimous-decision victory over Miguel Cotto in his previous fight.

If Mayweather isn't as good as ever, he's still light years ahead of the competition.

He said at the post-fight news conference that he plans to fight five more times. Enjoy him while you can. He's a once-in-a-generation gem.

POUND FOR POUND: Abner Mares entered the list at No. 5 on the strength of his victorious featherweight debut against Daniel Ponce de Leon. Robert Guerrero (No. 8 last month) was dropped after his loss to No. 1 Floyd Mayweather Jr., and Nonito Donaire (No. 10 last month) was dumped to make way for Saul Alvarez.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: Chris Arreola (unrated last month) was wearing a crimson mask by the end of a unanimous-decision loss to Canadian Bermane Stiverne, who as a result cracked the ratings at No. 10.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: Guillermo Jones (unrated last month) gave the cruisers a rare moment in the sun with an all-out war against Denis Lebedev. Jones scored an 11th-round knockout to take the WBA title and the No. 4 spot from Lebedev, who dropped to No. 5. No. 10 Rakhim Chakhkiev departed.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No change.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Champion Sergio Martinez once again touched the canvas but survived to outpoint British challenger Martin Murray, who held his spot at No. 7. Peter Quillin (No. 6 last month) rose to No. 4 to match the number of times he dropped Fernando Guerrero (unrated) en route to a seventh-round stoppage. The previous No. 4, Dmitry Pirog, was dropped from the list for inactivity. Also, Sam Soliman (No. 10 last month) was officially suspended for a failed drug test and the result of his upset win over Felix Sturm (No. 8 last month) in February became a no-contest, so Soliman was dropped and Sturm returned to No. 3. All the shuffling and dropping left two vacant spots, which were filled by Darren Barker (No. 9) and Brian Vera (No. 10).

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No change.

WELTERWEIGHTS: Floyd Mayweather Jr. was elevated from No. 1 to champion status after his cruise-control victory over Robert Guerrero, who fell from No. 3 to No. 7. Some other minor moves were made to restructure the list, and Argentine Luis Abregu stepped into the No. 10 spot.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Another shuffle took place at 140 following a weekend that saw division champion Danny Garcia winning a decision over Zab Judah (No. 4 last month) and Amir Khan (No. 2 last month) outpointing unrated Julio Diaz. Khan won but struggled and thus fell to No. 3, while Judah slipped to No. 5. In the process, Lamont Peterson (No. 3 last month) and Brandon Rios (No. 7 last month) both gained a rank, and No. 6 Mike Alvarado gained two as absentee Juan Manuel Marquez was demoted from No. 5 to No. 7. Marquez, who looks to be a dedicated welterweight now, was dropped entirely two weeks later, and undefeated Canadian Dierry Jean was added at No. 10 after a fourth-round knockout of Cleotis Pendarvis (unrated). Finally, No. 1-rated Lucas Matthysse proved he is every 140-pounder's worst nightmare by making quick work of Peterson, who dropped from No. 2 to No. 4.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Undefeated Aussie Will Tomlinson replaced Sergio Thompson at No. 10 following a unanimous decision over Malcolm Klassen (unrated).

FEATHERWEIGHTS: Abner Mares made a smashing debut at 126, stopping Daniel Ponce de Leon in nine to take the No. 2 spot from his friend, who fell to No. 5 after the loss. Robinson Castellanos (No. 10 last month) was pushed off the list as a result of Mares' arrival.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: Alexander Bakhtin (No. 4 last month) announced his retirement, which allowed everyone below to move up a spot and made room for undefeated Colombian Jonathan Romero to enter at No. 10. Two voids were created by the departure of Mares (No. 2 last month) and Hozumi Hasegawa (No. 8 last month), who hasn't truly fought at or below 122 since 2010. They were filled by undefeated contender Leo Santa Cruz (No. 9) after he rose from bantamweight to score a fifth-round knockout of Alexander Munoz (unrated) and veteran Fernando Montiel (No. 10).

BANTAMWEIGHTS: Santa Cruz's rise to 122 gave everyone from No. 4 downward a lift, and then-contender Jamie McDonnell of the U.K. moved into the No. 10 spot. The following week, McDonnell handed Julio Ceja (No. 7 at the time) his first loss to become the IBF titleholder. McDonnell rose to No. 8 as Ceja and Ryosuke Iwasa (No. 8 last month) were dropped to Nos. 9 and 10, respectively, while Joseph Agbeko was elevated from No. 9 to No. 7.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: Unrated Thai fighter Srisaket Sor Rugvisai's upset knockout of Yota Sato (No. 2 at the time) re-arranged the middle of the list as Sato fell to No. 6 and Sor Rungvisai entered at No. 5.

FLYWEIGHTS: Edgar Sosa (No. 8 last month) rose to No. 5 after he outpointed the unrated but always tough Giovani Segura.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: Kompayak Porpramook (No. 7 last month) was dropped after moving up in weight to KO unrated Jean Piero Perez at 112. His departure moved Nos. 8-10 up a notch and created a home at the bottom for Peruvian Alberto Rossel. No. 5 Kazuto Ioka and No. 4 Adrien Hernandez then switched places after Ioka's body-shot KO of unrated Wisanu Kokietgym.

STRAWWEIGHTS: WBA titleholder Ryo Miyazaki (No. 6 last month) stopped a hard-charging Carlos Velarde (unrated) in five rounds and swapped ranks with No. 5 Mario Rodriguez as a result.

Naoki Fukuda

Lucas Matthysse's knockout of Lamont Peterson (right) might've set up a showdown with RING 140-pound champ Danny Garcia.

Naoki Fukuda

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

C **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 60-3-0 (51 KOs)

1. **VITALI KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 45-2-0 (41 KOs)

2. **ALEXANDER POVETKIN**
Russia | 26-0-0 (18 KOs)

3. **DAVID HAYE**
U.K. | 26-2-0 (24 KOs)

4. **KUBRAT PULEV**
Bulgaria | 17-0-0 (9 KOs)

5. **TOMASZ ADAMEK**
Poland | 48-2-0 (29 KOs)

6. **RUSLAN CHAGAEV**
Uzbekistan | 31-2-1 (20 KOs)

7. **ROBERT HELENIUS**
Finland | 19-0-0 (11 KOs)

8. **TYSON FURY**
U.K. | 21-0-0 (15 KOs)

9. **TONY THOMPSON**
U.S. | 37-3-0 (25 KOs)

10. **BERMANE STIVERNE**
Canada | 23-1-1 (20 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

C **YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ**
Cuba | 27-1-0 (13 KOs)

1. **MARCO HUCK**
Germany | 35-2-1 (25 KOs)

2. **KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK**
Poland | 47-2-1 (33 KOs)

3. **OLA AFOLABI**
U.K. | 19-2-4 (9 KOs)

4. **GUILLERMO JONES**
Panama | 39-3-2 (31 KOs)

5. **DENIS LEBEDEV**
Russia | 25-2-0 (19 KOs)

6. **LATEEF KAYODE**
Nigeria | 18-0-0 (14 KOs)

7. **MATEUSZ MASTERNAK**
Poland | 30-0-0 (22 KOs)

8. **TROY ROSS**
Canada | 25-3-0 (16 KOs)

9. **FIRAT ARSLAN**
Germany | 32-6-2 (21 KOs)

10. **DMYTRO KUCHER**
Ukraine | 21-0-0 (15 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

C **CHAD DAWSON**
U.S. | 31-2-0 (17 KOs)

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
U.S. | 52-6-2 (32 KOs)

2. **NATHAN CLEVERLY**
U.K. | 25-0-0 (12 KOs)

3. **BEIBUT SHUMENOV**
Kazakhstan | 13-1-0 (8 KOs)

4. **SERGEI KOVALEV**
Russia | 20-0-1 (18 KOs)

5. **TAVORIS CLOUD**
U.S. | 24-1-0 (19 KOs)

6. **KARO MURAT**
Germany | 25-1-1 (15 KOs)

7. **ISAAC CHILEMBA**
Malawi | 20-1-2 (9 KOs)

8. **TONY BELLEW**
U.K. | 19-1-1 (12 KOs)

9. **JUERGEN BRAEHMER**
Germany | 40-2-0 (31 KOs)

10. **DENIS GRACHEV**
Russia | 13-1-1 (8 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

C **ANDRE WARD**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs)

1. **CARL FROCH**
U.K. | 30-2-0 (22 KOs)

2. **MIKKEL KESSLER**
Denmark | 46-2-0 (35 KOs)

3. **LUCIAN BUTE**
Romania | 31-1-0 (24 KOs)

4. **ROBERT STIEGLITZ**
Russia | 44-3-0 (25 KOs)

5. **THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN**
South Africa | 21-0-1 (13 KOs)

6. **ARTHUR ABRAHAM**
Armenia | 36-4-0 (28 KOs)

7. **GEORGE GROVES**
U.K. | 18-0-0 (14 KOs)

8. **SAKIO BIKA**
Cameroon | 31-5-2 (21 KOs)

9. **ADONIS STEVENSON**
Canada | 20-1-0 (17 KOs)

10. **EDWIN RODRIGUEZ**
Dominican Rep. | 23-0-0 (15 KOs)

RING RATINGS

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

C **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina | 51-2-2 (28 KOs)

1. **DANIEL GEALE**
Australia | 29-1-0 (15 KOs)

2. **GENNADY GOLOVKIN**
Kazakhstan | 26-0-0 (23 KOs)

3. **FELIX STURM**
Germany | 37-4-2 (16 KOs)

4. **PETER QUILLIN**
U.S. | 29-0-0 (21 KOs)

5. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.**
Mexico | 46-1-1 (32 KOs)

6. **MATTHEW MACKLIN**
U.K. | 29-4-0 (20 KOs)

7. **MARTIN MURRAY**
U.K. | 25-1-1 (11 KOs)

8. **HASSAN N'DAM**
France | 27-1-0 (17 KOs)

9. **DARREN BARKER**
U.K. | 25-1-0 (16 KOs)

10. **BRIAN VERA**
U.S. | 23-6-0 (14 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

C **SAUL ALVAREZ**
Mexico | 42-0-1 (30 KOs)

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 44-0-0 (26 KOs)

2. **AUSTIN TROUT**
U.S. | 26-1-0 (14 KOs)

3. **MIGUEL COTTO**
Puerto Rico | 37-4-0 (30 KOs)

4. **ERISLANDY LARA**
Cuba | 17-1-2 (11 KOs)

5. **VANES MARTIROSYAN**
U.S. | 32-0-1 (20 KOs)

6. **CARLOS MOLINA**
Mexico | 21-5-2 (6 KOs)

7. **ZAURBEK BAYSANGUROV**
Russia | 28-1-0 (20 KOs)

8. **ISHE SMITH**
U.S. | 25-5-0 (11 KOs)

9. **DEMETRIUS ANDRADE**
U.S. | 19-0-0 (13 KOs)

10. **WILLIE NELSON**
U.S. | 20-1-1 (12 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

C **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 44-0-0 (26 KOs)

1. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 55-6-1 (40 KOs)

2. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines | 54-5-2 (38 KOs)

3. **KELL BROOK**
U.K. | 29-0-0 (19 KOs)

4. **PAULIE MALIGNAGGI**
U.S. | 32-4-0 (7 KOs)

5. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
U.S. | 30-0-0 (12 KOs)

6. **DEVON ALEXANDER**
U.S. | 25-1-0 (14 KOs)

7. **ROBERT GUERRERO**
U.S. | 31-2-1 (18 KOs)

8. **VICTOR ORTIZ**
U.S. | 29-4-2 (22 KOs)

9. **KEITH THURMAN**
U.S. | 20-0-0 (18 KOs)

10. **LUIS ABREGU**
Argentina | 35-1-0 (28 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

C **DANNY GARCIA**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (16 KOs)

1. **LUCAS MATTHYSSE**
Argentina | 34-2-0 (32 KOs)

2. **AMIR KHAN**
U.K. | 28-3-0 (19 KOs)

3. **MIKE ALVARADO**
U.S. | 34-1-0 (23 KOs)

4. **LAMONT PETERSON**
U.S. | 31-2-1 (16 KOs)

5. **ZAB JUDAH**
U.S. | 42-8-0 (29 KOs)

6. **BRANDON RIOS**
U.S. | 31-1-1 (23 KOs)

7. **KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV**
Russia | 18-0-0 (8 KOs)

8. **DENIS SHAFIKOV**
Russia | 32-0-1 (17 KOs)

9. **RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV**
Russia | 22-2-0 (15 KOs)

10. **DIERRY JEAN**
Canada | 25-0-0 (17 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ADRIEN BRONER**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (22 KOs)

2. **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ**
Mexico | 33-3-0 (13 KOs)

3. **RICKY BURNS**
U.K. | 36-2-0 (11 KOs)

4. **RICHARD ABRIL**
Cuba | 18-3-1 (8 KOs)

5. **ANTONIO DEMARCO**
Mexico | 28-3-1 (21 KOs)

6. **GAVIN REES**
U.K. | 37-2-1 (18 KOs)

7. **SHARIF BOGERE**
Uganda | 23-1-0 (15 KOs)

8. **KEVIN MITCHELL**
U.K. | 33-2-0 (24 KOs)

9. **RAYMUNDO BELTRAN**
Mexico | 28-6-0 (17 KOs)

10. **DANIEL ESTRADA**
Mexico | 31-2-1 (23 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA**
Japan | 20-0-1 (17 KOs)

2. **YURIORKIS GAMBOA**
Cuba | 22-0-0 (16 KOs)

3. **ARGENIS MENDEZ**
Dominican Rep. | 21-2-0 (11 KOs)

4. **ROMAN MARTINEZ**
Puerto Rico | 27-1-2 (16 KOs)

5. **JUAN CARLOS BURGOS**
Mexico | 30-1-0 (20 KOs)

6. **DIEGO MAGDALENO**
U.S. | 23-1-0 (9 KOs)

7. **JUAN CARLOS SALGADO**
Mexico | 26-1-1 (16 KOs)

8. **TAKASHI MIURA**
Japan | 25-2-2 (19 KOs)

9. **TAKAHIRO AO**
Japan | 23-3-1 (10 KOs)

10. **WILL TOMLINSON**
Australia | 21-0-1 (12 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

C **MIKEY GARCIA**
U.S. | 31-0-0 (26 KOs)

1. **CHRIS JOHN**
Indonesia | 48-0-3 (22 KOs)

2. **ABNER MARES**
Mexico | 26-0-1 (14 KOs)

3. **ORLANDO SALIDO**
Mexico | 39-12-2 (27 KOs)

4. **JHONNY GONZALEZ**
Mexico | 54-8-0 (46 KOs)

5. **DANIEL PONCE DE LEON**
Mexico | 44-5-0 (35 KOs)

6. **EVGENY GRADOVICH**
Russia | 16-0-0 (8 KOs)

7. **BILLY DIB**
Australia | 35-2-0 (21 KOs)

8. **NICHOLAS WALTERS**
Jamaica | 22-0-0 (18 KOs)

9. **JAVIER FORTUNA**
Dominican Rep. | 22-0-0 (16 KOs)

10. **JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ**
Puerto Rico | 33-2-0 (30 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

C **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
Cuba | 12-0-0 (8 KOs)

1. **NONITO DONAIRE**
Philippines | 31-2-0 (20 KOs)

2. **JEFFREY MATHEBULA**
South Africa | 27-4-2 (14 KOs)

3. **CARL FRAMPTON**
U.K. | 16-0-0 (10 KOs)

4. **SCOTT QUIGG**
U.K. | 25-0-1 (18 KOs)

5. **VIC DARCHINYAN**
Armenia | 39-5-1 (28 KOs)

6. **TOMOKI KAMEDA**
Japan | 27-0-0 (18 KOs)

7. **VICTOR TERRAZAS**
Mexico | 37-2-1 (21 KOs)

8. **JONATHAN ROMERO**
Colombia | 23-0-0 (12 KOs)

9. **LEO SANTA CRUZ**
U.S. | 24-0-1 (14 KOs)

10. **FERNANDO MONTIEL**
Mexico | 49-4-2 (37 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings Chairman Chuck Giampa considers input from the Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world but has final say on all changes. That applies to both the pound-for-pound and divisional ratings.

Records provided by boxrec.com

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ANSELMO MORENO**
Panama | 33-2-1 (12 KOs)
2. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
Japan | 18-0-2 (13 KOs)
3. **KOKI KAMEDA**
Japan | 30-1-0 (17 KOs)
4. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
Philippines | 32-3-3 (20 KOs)
5. **HUGO RUIZ**
Mexico | 31-2-0 (28 KOs)
6. **PAULUS AMBUNDA**
Namibia | 20-0-0 (10 KOs)
7. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
Ghana | 29-4-0 (22 KOs)
8. **JAMIE MCDONNELL**
U.K. | 21-2-1 (9 KOs)
9. **JULIO CEJA**
Mexico | 24-1-0 (22 KOs)
10. **RYOSUKE IWASA**
Japan | 14-1-0 (9 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
Argentina | 38-1-2 (20 KOs)
2. **SURIYAN SOR RUNGVISAI**
Thailand | 26-5-1 (10 KOs)
3. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR.**
Mexico | 15-1-1 (8 KOs)
4. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
Mexico | 28-0-0 (23 KOs)
5. **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI**
Thailand | 19-3-1 (18 KOs)
6. **YOTA SATO**
Japan | 26-3-1 (12 KOs)
7. **TEPPARITH SINGWANCHA**
Thailand | 23-3-0 (13 KOs)
8. **RYO AKAHO**
Japan | 19-1-2 (12 KOs)
9. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
Thailand | 48-1-1 (17 KOs)
10. **ARTHUR VILLANUEVA**
Philippines | 21-0-0 (11 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C **AKIRA YAEGASHI**
Japan | 17-3-0 (9 KOs)

1. **JUAN ESTRADA**
Mexico | 24-2-0 (18 KOs)
2. **BRIAN VILORIA**
U.S. | 32-4-0 (19 KOs)
3. **HERNAN MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 35-3-0 (26 KOs)
4. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
S. Africa | 29-2-0 (20 KOs)
5. **EDGAR SOSA**
Mexico | 49-7-0 (29 KOs)
6. **TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI**
Japan | 17-2-1 (10 KOs)
7. **MILAN MELINDO**
Philippines | 29-0-0 (12 KOs)
8. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
Argentina | 30-1-0 (16 KOs)
9. **ROCKY FUENTES**
Philippines | 35-6-2 (20 KOs)
10. **LUIS CONCEPCION**
Panama | 28-3-0 (21 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
Nicaragua | 34-0-0 (28 KOs)
2. **DONNIE NIETES**
Philippines | 31-1-3 (17 KOs)
3. **MOISES FUENTES**
Mexico | 16-1-1 (8 KOs)
4. **KAZUTO IOKA**
Japan | 12-0-0 (8 KOs)
5. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
Mexico | 27-2-1 (16 KOs)
6. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
Philippines | 18-2-0 (10 KOs)
7. **RYOICHI TAGUCHI**
Japan | 18-1-1 (8 KOs)
8. **FELIX ALVARADO**
Nicaragua | 15-0-0 (12 KOs)
9. **PEDRO GUEVARA**
Mexico | 19-1-1 (13 KOs)
10. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
Peru | 30-8-0 (13 KOs)

STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **DENVER CUELLO**
Philippines | 33-4-6 (21 KOs)
2. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
Thailand | 27-0-0 (8 KOs)
3. **NKOSINATHI JOYI**
South Africa | 23-1-0 (16 KOs)
4. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
Japan | 25-6-0 (10 KOs)
5. **RYO MIYAZAKI**
Japan | 19-0-3 (11 KOs)
6. **MARIO RODRIGUEZ**
Mexico | 15-7-4 (11 KOs)
7. **HEKKIE BUDLER**
South Africa | 22-1-0 (6 KOs)
8. **CARLOS BUITRAGO**
Nicaragua | 25-0-0 (16 KOs)
9. **JESUS SILVESTRE**
Mexico | 27-3-0 (20 KOs)
10. **MERLITO SABILLO**
Philippines | 21-0-0 (11 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 44-0-0 (26 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT/ JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT
2. **ANDRE WARD**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs) | SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
3. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 55-6-1 (40 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
4. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 60-3-0 (51 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
5. **ABNER MARES**
Mexico | 26-0-1 (14 KOs) | FEATHERWEIGHT
6. **ADRIEN BRONER**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (22 KOs) | LIGHTWEIGHT
7. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina | 51-2-2 (28 KOs) | MIDDLEWEIGHT
8. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines | 54-5-2 (38 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
9. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
U.S. | 30-0-0 (12 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
10. **SAUL ALVAREZ**
Mexico | 42-0-1 (30 KOs) | JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT

THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then the boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of his "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the ratings.

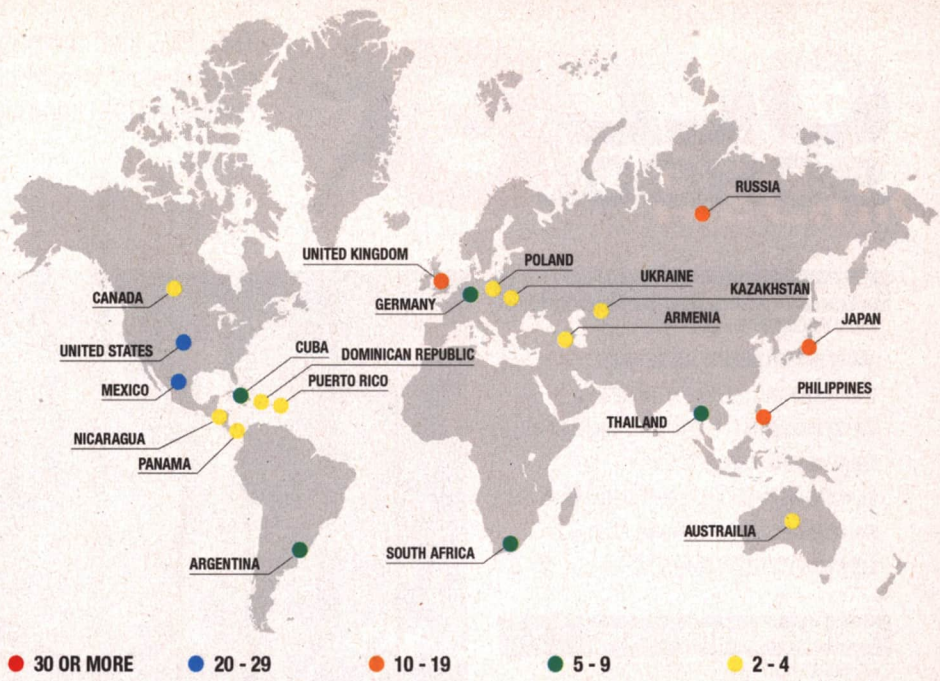
A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportunity to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is completed.

A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agency subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the test result was invalid.

RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

UNITED STATES	30*
MEXICO	28
UNITED KINGDOM	18
JAPAN	15
RUSSIA	10
PHILIPPINES	10
ARGENTINA	5
CUBA	5
GERMANY	5
SOUTH AFRICA	5
THAILAND	5
CANADA	4
AUSTRALIA	3
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	3
NICARAGUA	3
PANAMA	3
POLAND	3
PUERTO RICO	3
UKRAINE	3
ARMENIA	2
KAZAKHSTAN	2
BULGARIA	1
CAMEROON	1
COLOMBIA	1
DENMARK	1
FINLAND	1
FRANCE	1
GHANA	1
INDONESIA	1
JAMAICA	1
MALAWI	1
NAMIBIA	1
NIGERIA	1
PERU	1
ROMANIA	1
UGANDA	1
UZBEKISTAN	1

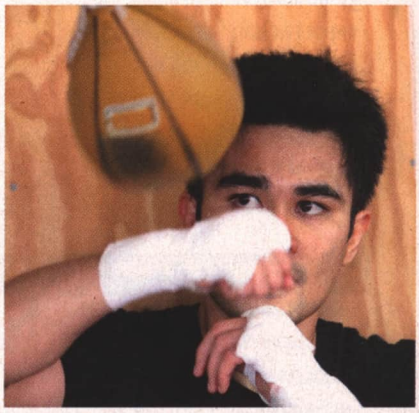
**Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight and welterweight).*



U.S. VS. MEXICO

THE RING doesn't want to put too much emphasis on the heated rivalry between the U.S. and Mexico. However, we're compelled to point out major shifts. That includes the past month, when the U.S. regained the lead in terms of rated fighters four months after Mexico took over the top spot. Mexico had a 30-29 edge last month; the U.S. now leads 30-28. Here's how it breaks down.

DIVISION	U.S.	MEXICO
HEAVYWEIGHTS	1	0
CRUISERWEIGHTS	0	0
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS	3	0
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	1	0
MIDDLEWEIGHTS	2	1
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS	6	2
WELTERWEIGHTS	7	1
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS	5	0
LIGHTWEIGHTS	1	4
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS	1	2
FEATHERWEIGHTS	1	4
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS	1	2
BANTAMWEIGHTS	0	2
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS	0	2
FLYWEIGHTS	1	3
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS	0	3
STRAWWEIGHTS	0	2
TOTAL	30	28



Brian Viloria is the lightest American rated by THE RING.

WELL REPRESENTED

No country has a fighter rated in more than 12 of the 17 weight classes. Which countries have at least one in the most divisions? Here's a look (including divisions).

UNITED STATES – 12 (HEAVYWEIGHT, 175, 168, 160, 154, 147, 140, 135, 130, 126, 122 AND 112)

MEXICO – 12 (160, 154, 147, 135, 130, 126, 122, 118, 115, 112, 108 AND 105)

UNITED KINGDOM – 10 (HEAVYWEIGHT, 200, 175, 168, 160, 147, 140, 135, 122 AND 118)

JAPAN – 7 (130, 122, 118, 115, 112, 108 AND 105)

PHILIPPINES – 7 (147, 122, 118, 115, 112, 108 AND 105)

RUSSIA – 6 (HEAVYWEIGHT, 200, 175, 168, 154 AND 140)

ARGENTINA – 5 (160, 147, 140, 115 AND 112)

CUBA – 5 (200, 154, 135, 130 AND 122)

***NOTE:** The country of fighters who have spent large portions of their lives in two countries was determined primarily by where they spent the bulk of their childhood.*

MAYWEATHER: Naoki Fukuda; THOMPSON: Alex Livesey/Getty Images

NOTE: *THESE LISTS WERE COMPILED THROUGH FIGHTS AS OF MAY 23, 2013.*

OLD SCHOOL 8

THE RING staff members' current champions in the original eight weight classes. Our guest this month is regular RING contributor Bernard Fernandez.

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: ADRIEN BRONER
FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

DOUG FISCHER RINGTV.COM EDITOR

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: ADRIEN BRONER
FEATHERWEIGHT: CHRIS JOHN
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

LEM SATTERFIELD STAFF WRITER

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: ADRIEN BRONER
FEATHERWEIGHT: ABNER MARES
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

BERNARD FERNANDEZ BOXING WRITER

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: ADRIEN BRONER
FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

Note: *This is how the weights break down: Heavyweight includes cruiserweight, light heavyweight includes super middleweight, all divisions middleweight through flyweight include the "junior" versions, and flyweight also includes strawweight.*

Guillermo Rigondeaux claimed his place among the best in boxing when he dominated Nonito Donaire.

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Saul "Canelo" Alvarez has the difficult-to-define ability to attract fans.

RED DAWN

CANELO ALVAREZ ATTRACTED ALMOST 40,000 FANS TO THE ALAMODOME, A STRONG INDICATION THAT A MAJOR STAR HAS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE

By **Bart Barry**

Saul "Canelo" Alvarez decisioned Austin Trout to become THE RING junior middleweight champion before 39,247 people (36,420 paid) on April 20 at the Alamodome in San Antonio, providing rebuttals for each of his critics' camps. For those who believed he was a Mexico-only attraction whose American drawing power was promotional hot air, he delivered a larger crowd than any of his contemporaries but Manny Pacquiao. For those who believed "Canelo Mania" was the result of

Naoki Fukuda

RED DAWN

a protected darling bludgeoning only the weak, old or frail, Alvarez delivered a close, fair decision over a full-sized fellow titlist in the prime of his career.

Alvarez, at only 22, is now a commodity, not a novelty, and a world champion, not a belt-holder.

"Listen, if anybody could figure out ...," matchmaker Don Chargin said and then stopped. "I've seen it with some fighters, but never like it is with Canelo. I think you go back to that 'it.' What is it that causes one fighter to draw and make people go crazy and another fighter, who might be better, nobody gets excited about?

"There's that 'it.' What the hell is it? It can drive you crazy."

Alvarez remains, to casual boxing fans and even some serious ones, an enigma. He does not look like an American's conception of a Mexican, with his floral-white skin, freckles and burnt-orange hair. To see his mouth barely moving as he enunciates words in a language that is not English can look odd to an American; he should be speaking English with a Boston accent or Irish lilt, but not Spanish.

To Mexicans, he is one more anomaly from Guadalajara, a city of Mexico's beautiful and often privileged youths, those whom fellow Mexicans call "fresas (strawberries)." Alvarez is strawberry-complected but not strawberry-raised, born on a horse farm in a tiny town whose name, Tlajomulco de Zúñiga, ties even Mexican tongues. His demonstrated equestrianship, not mounting a pony at birthday parties but handling dressage colts with practiced form, lends a note of authenticity to a personage some Mexicans might otherwise find overwrought.

"Always, there are those people who want to give ... mmm," said Alvarez, choosing his words slowly in his native tongue, "less merit to one's triumph, no? Those that wish to minimize one's triumph. It is like that here, and in all of boxing."

Before Alvarez was a champion of any sort, before he'd done more than beat up good local talent in his home state of Jalisco or neighboring Nayarit, he was a local celebrity. And the nature of celebrity is this: If everyone knows you where you are, however small that area, it prepares you for a time when everyone knows you wherever you are. Alvarez has the practiced presence of a man accustomed to being admired.

"He was like 18 years old, and

Alvarez's convincing victory over Austin Trout gave him added credibility in terms of his fighting ability.

we went to Guadalajara for a fight," said Ramiro Gonzalez, public relations director for Golden Boy Promotions and the man most often seen at Alvarez's side in the United States. "We went down to Guadalajara – as a matter of fact it was Tepic, a small town in Mexico. At that time he was dating a Televisa reporter, and I saw him with this reporter, and she is very known by the media and the fans. She used to be in the magazines. And so I think, 'This kid, he's flying high.'

"So he brought his car, and he uses his own rules, and he was driving very fast. So I was scared. But I was noticing that at every stop it was, 'Eh, Canelo!' 'Canelo,' 'Canelo!' At every stop."

Alvarez understands there are responsibilities to fans – he signed item after item at the news conference to kick off the Trout promotion in San Antonio, often shrugging off Gonzalez's gentle warnings that television folks were growing impatient – but he understands equally that his obligation is to be present, and show presence, more than say anything provocative. In interviews, both pre-fight and post-fight, he would rather say nothing than say the wrong thing.

"Before, he was so quiet," said Gonzalez of early press tours with Alvarez. "He didn't smile, like he doesn't have muscles in the face. But now he understands."

The Mexican tradition is one that comprehends a proportion that American fight promoters sometimes do not: The more two combatants say to one another before a fight, the fewer chances they will take when combat commences because neither wishes to provide his enemy the satisfaction of his embarrassment. Alvarez does not insult, or even mildly taunt, his opponent before a fight. He describes his opponent in respectful terms and focuses on the host city and his gratitude to its denizens, and in San Antonio, they were many and grateful indeed.

"Mexico's main highway to the U.S. is through Laredo and San Antonio, and we're getting a lot of Mexicans coming for holidays here," said Mike Battah, of Leija/Battah Promotions, the man most responsible for bringing Alvarez to the Alamodome. "I wanted to open the gate to 60,000.

"I didn't think it was a gamble at all. ... I said, at the most, if anything goes wrong, I might lose a couple hundred thousand. I was very positive that I could sell that place."

Lent the energy of a bursting arena, Alvarez allowed his natural fearlessness – a product of his age, yes, but equally a product of his fighting 277 professional rounds without a defeat – to overwhelm what apprehension every prizefighter feels at opening bell. Against Trout, he was reckless, oblivious of consequence, when he threw his right hand, a commitment captured inadequately by television.

"Nobody expects it," Alvarez said. "I know how to control myself very well in those

CHASING **GREATNESS**

SAUL "CANELO" ALVAREZ, only 22, is just getting started. He has won two major world titles in one division, junior middleweight. That means he has a long way to go to catch the most-accomplished Mexican boxers. Here are the fighters Alvarez is chasing:

ERIK MORALES
7 TITLES IN FOUR DIVISIONS

Titles: WBC junior featherweight, WBO junior featherweight, WBC featherweight (twice), WBC junior lightweight, IBF junior lightweight and WBC junior welterweight.

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
7 TITLES IN THREE DIVISIONS

Titles: WBC junior lightweight, RING lightweight, WBA lightweight, WBC lightweight, WBC junior welterweight (twice) and IBF junior welterweight.

MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA
7 TITLES IN THREE DIVISIONS

Titles: WBO junior featherweight (three times), RING featherweight, WBC featherweight, WBC junior lightweight and IBF junior lightweight.

JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ
5 TITLES IN THREE DIVISIONS

Titles: IBF featherweight, WBA featherweight, WBC junior lightweight, WBA lightweight and WBO lightweight.

RUBEN OLIVARES
8 TITLES IN TWO DIVISIONS

Titles: RING bantamweight (twice), WBA bantamweight (twice), WBC bantamweight (twice), WBA featherweight and WBC featherweight.

RICARDO LOPEZ
4 TITLES IN TWO DIVISIONS

Titles: WBC strawweight, WBO strawweight, WBA strawweight and IBF junior flyweight.

Note: THE RING doesn't acknowledge "interim" titles.

Donald Miralle/Golden Boy/Getty Images

moments. We had planned to show other things, but as the boxer, I have to do what is most comfortable for me. We knew Austin Trout was fast and intelligent, but we knew we were faster and more intelligent."

Subtleties of other fighters, too, are missed by television: Manny Pacquiao is faster on the way in, Floyd Mayweather Jr. is more elusive, Sergio Martinez is nearer an opponent. And Alvarez is more ferocious, less interested in eluding punches as delivering them in a personal way that sounds flatter and harsher at ringside and puts his opponents on the defensive quicker than planned.

What was noticeable to all who watched him against Austin Trout was that Trout's jab was ineffective. What was especially noticeable for those at ringside, though, was that those Trout jabs that did connect with Alvarez, the ones he did not slip or parry, the ones that caught him square in the face, did not make Alvarez pause and took almost nothing off his right hands. Alvarez, his large thighs his greatest asset, powered through the well-placed jabs of a fully developed and accomplished 154-pound prizefighter in a way few predicted he would be able to do.

"The whole fight, we did what we worked on," said Alvarez. "But the truth is, I felt a little agitated because inactivity weighed on me. It had been (eight months) without fighting, and I wasn't accustomed to so much time passing between fights."

This is how Alvarez gained a level of credibility previously denied him by American aficionados; this is how Canelo improved from red-haired-horseman novelty, a guy's whose coif and complexion appeared to drive Mexico's maniacal fan base the same way Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.'s mere patronym does, to something legitimate, a man worthy of consideration as the world's best junior middleweight.

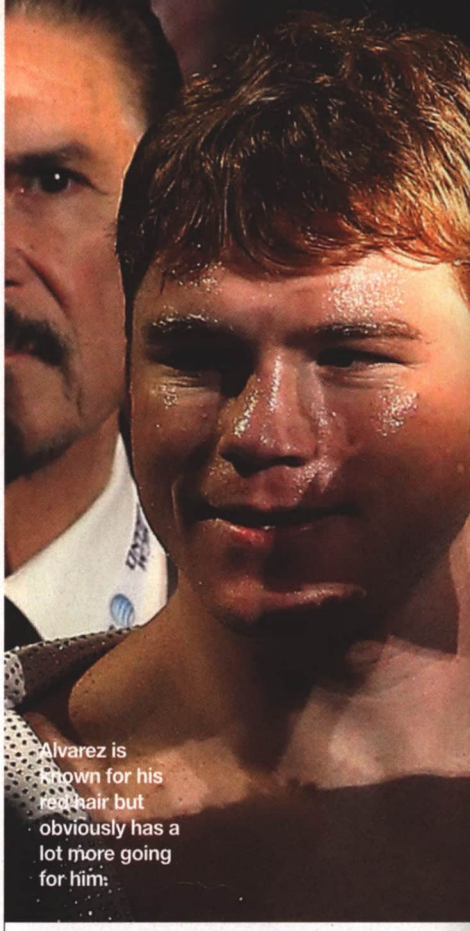
"I always go back to one story," said Don Chargin. "They brought Canelo and his manager to Vegas before he'd had fights here, when they were negotiating the signing (or a recent fight). At the weigh-in, there was a big Mexican crowd there, and this guy, the second they saw him, the people left. They were watching the weigh-in, they turned away from the weigh-in, and this guy was just swamped.

"And I thought, 'Oh my God.' I'd heard how popular he was in Mexico, but this really, really surprised me."

In San Antonio, no one doubted Trout's merits the way they doubted Alvarez's previous opponents – Alfonso Gomez (career welterweight), Kermit Cintron (former welterweight titlist), Shane Mosley (40 year old on a three-fight winless streak), Josesito Lopez (career junior welterweight). Trout was a man who made his professional debut in the junior middleweight division and defeated Miguel Cotto before a partisan Puerto Rican crowd at Madison Square Garden five months before. Trout was the exact test American aficionados want their champions to pass, a man who presented considerably more peril than acclaim for the spotless record of a blossoming phenomenon like Canelo.

The Mexicans, meanwhile, just wanted him to make a brave showing, come what may. Canelo is a masterwork by Groupo Televisa, Latin America's largest mass-media company, a Mexico-based broadcaster that trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the simple symbol: TV.

"Televisa did a hell of a job with Canelo," said Ramiro Gonzalez. "Because every month, they put (on) Canelo. Every month. He was so often on TV."



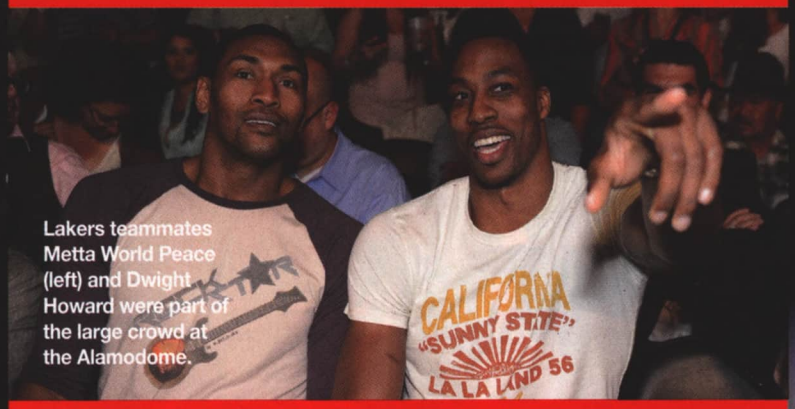
Alvarez is known for his red hair but obviously has a lot more going for him.

Alvarez is not merely a draw for macho male sports-fans, a demographic as likely to deprecate a handsome Jalisciense as celebrate him, but Mexico's housewives, too. His life is covered with a soap-operatic template, like a telenovela in which Canelo plays a complicated role: a good-looking young man from humble beginnings who practices the brutal craft of separating men, often fellow Mexicans, from their consciousness, while wearing dark suits and saying little.

"Canelo is a 22-year-old guy, sophisticated, incredibly well dressed, just like one of those 'rebelde (rebel)' characters," said Mauricio Salvador, editor of *Esquina*, a Mexico City boxing periodical. "A mixture of rudeness, because he is a boxer, and these high-class mannerisms so hot today.

"With Mexicans, just like they

MONSTER **CROWDS**



Lakers teammates Metta World Peace (left) and Dwight Howard were part of the large crowd at the Alamodome.

The fight between Saul "Canelo" Alvarez and Austin Trout drew 39,247 to the Alamodome on April 20, one of the biggest crowds to see a fight in the United States in recent years and evidence of Alvarez's star power. Here are five fights in the U.S. – all featuring the biggest figures in the sport – witnessed by large crowds.

59,995 ..... **Julio Cesar Chavez-Pernell Whitaker**, Alamodome, San Antonio
50,994 ..... **Manny Pacquiao-Joshua Clottey**, Cowboys Stadium, Arlington, Texas
45,368 ..... **Oscar De La Hoya-Patrick Charpentier**, Sun Bowl, El Paso, Texas
41,734 ..... **Pacquiao-Antonio Margarito,** Cowboys Stadium, Arlington, Texas
27,000 ..... **De La Hoya-Steve Forbes,** Home Depot Center, Carson, Calif.

love to love heroes, they also love to have villains. And Canelo is both in the same person. He is the boxer hero, and he is the elegant ruling class."

Alvarez's romances are covered breathlessly by Televisa in a format that often feels contrived if not baldly scripted. Within 10 days of his victory over Trout, Alvarez was received at Residencia Oficial de los Pinos, Mexico's palatial equivalent of the White House, by President Enrique Pena Nieto, whose wife, Angelica Rivera, was herself a fixture of Televisa programming in the last decade as a telenovela star. It was an honor also bestowed on Juan Manuel Marquez in December – after 55 victories, 13 world title fights and participation in both the 2009 and 2012 Fight of the Year.

"It took so long for Marquez to develop," said Gonzalez, whose company promoted Marquez for four years. "But for Canelo, it's a very short period of time."

It is a double standard of recognition Marquez has not been timid about addressing, beginning with a 2011 appearance on a different Televisa program, *Tribunal TD*, a via-satellite panel that included Marquez, his trainer Nacho Beristain, WBC President Jose Sulaiman and Alvarez. Marquez stated plainly that Alvarez did not deserve the ranking Sulaiman's WBC bestowed upon him, a ranking of potential more than achievement, and provoked an uncharacteristically animated reply:

"It is odd to me," Alvarez began, "that people in boxing, like Nacho and Juanma Marquez, do not know that every boxer follows a (developmental) process, and I am in mine. And I am going to demonstrate from what I am made, and it does not interest me what (Beristain and Marquez) say because they are negative, they are negative people."

The resentful tone Marquez took, and continues to take, about Alvarez, though, is not an anomaly. Marquez speaks for many accomplished Mexican prizefighters denied a fraction the acclaim that now composes what is known as "Canelo Mania."

"You don't have to recognize it," Chargin said. "It recognizes you. I can see the thing, I can just visualize it. But it's hard to explain."

"I was with (Julio Cesar) Chavez Sr., with Marquez, with (Marco Antonio) Barrera, with (Erik) Morales," said Gonzalez, referring to other Mexican champions he's accompanied. "But it wasn't the same thing. With (Canelo) it is different."

Alvarez has now defeated a fellow titlist many insiders expected to beat him. And in doing so he surpassed every active prizefighter but Manny Pacquiao as a ticket-seller in the U.S. His showing in San Antonio, and the revenue potential it showed, makes even an 85-year-old matchmaker's eyes wide:

"This guy, believe me," Chargin said, "in the L.A. Coliseum, (he could) probably draw 60,000-70,000 people."

If Mike Battah has his way, Alvarez will do that same number next time he is at the Alamodome.

"I think I could sell 70,000," Battah said. "I felt it from all the pressure of other tickets that people were asking for. I think I could sell it."

In 1993, Julio Cesar Chavez Sr. sold 59,995 at the Alamodome for his fight with Pernell Whitaker. It is a mark that stands 20 years later as definitive.

"We're going to beat it," Battah said.

"If God wishes, it would please me to return there," Alvarez said. "And to break that record? It would please me." RING

CANELO: Josh Hedges/Getty Images; METTA WORLD PEACE/HOWARD: Donald Miralle/Golden Boy/Golden Boy

RIGONDEAUX: JOE KLAMAR/AFP/Gettyimages; ALVEREZ: Donald Miralle/Golden Boy/Golden Boy via Getty Images

DIFFERENT PATHS TO RICHES

FIGHTERS WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF AMATEUR EXPERIENCE (RIGONDEAUX) AND THOSE WITH LITTLE (ALVAREZ) CAN END UP AT THE SAME PLACE

By **Bernard Fernandez**

Saul "Canelo" Alvarez is an example of a fighter who has carved out a successful professional career even though he had few amateur fights.

If boxing is, as many believe, an art form, then great fighters' expressions of their artistry can be as wide-ranging as the masterpieces hanging in the world's more prestigious museums. Do you prefer, say, the Analytic Cubism or the Blue Period of experimental genius Pablo Picasso? The soft, dappled colors of French Impressionist Claude Monet or the splashy, abstract imagery of Jackson Pollock?

In the ring, on a different kind of canvas, highly accomplished fighters use their strokes to create vivid images on their opponents' faces in shades of blood-red and bruise-purple. Their gloved fists are their brushes, and they work from a palette that ranges from brute power to technical expertise to balletic movement. A trip to the arena for any big-time boxing card can offer as many styles to study and appreciate as a visit to the Louvre.

"Styles make fights" is one of boxing's hoariest truisms, but nowhere is the divide between accepted approaches wider than could be found from 1992 and 2012, when Olympic-style amateur boxers were routinely steered into a compartment that rewarded the restrictions of computerized scoring more than the individualized preferences of those notoriously free-form professionals.

The computer will be scrapped at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de

Manny Pacquiao didn't have an extensive amateur career – he turned pro at 16 – but that didn't seem to hurt him in the long run.

Janeiro, Brazil – it has already been tossed onto the junk heap in international competition, as mandated by AIBA reformers – but it probably will take years for gold-medal-dreaming kids to make all the adjustments from the amateurs' paint-by-numbers blueprint of the past couple of decades to the mishmash that marks the pro version of the fight game.

"Even with the new rules, which definitely are a step in the right direction, I believe it'll take the world a while to catch on," said Freddie Roach, a five-time winner of the Boxing Writers Association of America's Eddie Futch Award as Trainer of the Year. "When a fighter, even at the elite level, comes out of the amateurs, there are things he has to change in going pro because that indoctrination in the computer scoring system can cause problems. There is always a period of adjustment.

"My first world champion, Virgil Hill (a silver medalist at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics), didn't fight when they had the computer so he didn't have as many bad habits to break as my next Olympian, Brian Viloria. Brian had been taught from an early age to beat the computer, so I had to change him from that to a more productive pro style."

All of which raises a question: Just how difficult – or not – is the transition from the amateurs to the pros? There are celebrated Olympic gold medalists who have, with no problem, transferred that success into the punch-for-pay ranks. There are other amateur legends who have struggled when asked to remove their headgear, fight more rounds than they're accustomed to and to rely on the gut reactions of ringside judges rather than the twitchiness of their button-pressing fingers. And don't forget, there are fighters enshrined in the International Boxing Hall of Fame, or who someday will be, who turned pro with zero amateur experience or close to it.

The answer, of course, is that there is no surefire method of

determining who will or won't make it once that transition is attempted. For every Guillermo Rigondeaux (412 amateur bouts), Devon Alexander (310) or Sugar Ray Leonard (174) who adapted to the pros as readily as a duckling takes to water, there is a Howard Davis Jr. (named Outstanding Boxer at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, but never a world champion as a pro) or a Henry Tillman (a gold medalist at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics who outpointed Mike Tyson at the Olympic Trials, but was knocked out by Tyson in one round as a pro).

Benny Leonard, Joey Giardello and Dwight Muhammad Qawi are further proof of the foolishness of attempting to predict who will have a major impact in the pros. All three are enshrined in the IBHOF in Canastota, N.Y., and all three turned pro without so much as a single sanctioned amateur bout.

"Amateur boxing almost has become a separate sport from professional boxing," says Bruce Trampler, the Hall of Fame matchmaker for Top Rank. "When you're competing in a version of the sport where a jab counts the same as a knockdown punch, it alters your approach. How could it not?

"I hope these changes (adopted by AIBA and enthusiastically endorsed by USA Boxing) do have the desired effect. We've all seen every four years how the medal returns (for the U.S.) have gotten worse and worse until we got to 2012, when we didn't have a single medalist (in the men's competition). It was sad to see."

AIBA even has made allowances for some elite amateurs to fight in something called the World Series of Boxing, which Trampler said is designed to make the journey from medals to money shorter and less arduous.

"It's mostly been tested in California," Trampler noted. "A lot of the guys who are now turning pro, including a group of last year's Olympians, fought in that. They were actually pro fights, according to the California commission and Fight Fax. They were licensed bouts, they fought without headgear with regular-sized gloves. That was sort of a bridge between pure amateur boxing and pro boxing."

But it would be incorrect to say that the bridge to which Trampler refers has always existed, or even needed to be. Although Hall of Famers like Benny Leonard, Giardello and Qawi had no official amateur experience, it wasn't as if they entered the pros as innocent babes in swaddling clothes. They learned some of the tools of their future trade on the streets or behind prison walls, a route to the pros that sometimes is taken even in today's more enlightened age. It isn't really a rarity for some fighters, particularly those from Latin American countries, to turn pro in their mid-teens. Junior middleweight champion Canelo Alvarez, for instance, made his pro debut at 15 after logging just 20 amateur bouts. Former WBC middleweight titlist Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. had only two amateur fights before going pro at 17, although, as you might have heard, he got a few useful tips from his father.

Other familiar names with scant amateur resumes, or none at all, include Rocky Marciano (12 bouts), Rocky Graziano (four), Roberto Duran (his biography refers to a "brief" amateur career, turned pro at 15), Jeff Chandler (two), Sean O'Grady (none, turned pro at 15), Hasim Rahman (10) and Anthony Mundine (four). All won world titles.

While it might be said that the chasm separating the amateurs and pros was at its widest point during the computer era, some boxing historians suggest that there probably always was a gap of some sort.

Mike Hunnicut, in a critique of the great lightweight champion Benny Leonard's career, noted that "from the mid-1950s until the 1960s, many professional fight club venues began to close. Boxers began to get more experience in the amateur ranks and turn pro at a later age. Often acquiring 100 amateur bouts, many boxers received most of their experience, as well as their skills, in the amateurs. ... What was once fluidity and adaption in bouts in overall offensive and defensive skills had become predictable and rigid."

Sound familiar?

Benny Leonard, who was 51 when he died of a massive heart attack in 1947, has a tale that is interesting but hardly unique given the time and place from which he arose. Leonard (birth name: Benjamin Leiner) was born and raised in New York City's Jewish ghetto on the lower east side of Manhattan, where he was one of many kids who learned to fight because, well, it was a skill necessary for survival on the street.

Leonard, who turned pro at 15, was described by writer Jersey Jones in the July 1947 issue of THE RING as a "magnificent boxer, a deadly puncher, a brilliant ring strategist and an extraordinary showman. Benny Leonard had to be a real champion in every sense of the word, to rule over the most formidable array of challengers in the annals of the lightweight division."

Two of Leonard's most formidable opponents were his own parents. Bud Greenspan quoted Leonard in a story that appeared in the May 31, 1976, issue of

GABRIEL BOUYS/AFP/Getty Images

DIFFERENT PATHS TO RICHES

Sports Illustrated. "I was a mama's boy," Leonard related. "When I was 15, I began fighting in local clubs, but I didn't want my folks to know. So I changed my name from Benny Leiner to Benny Leonard, after the famous minstrel man Eddie Leonard.

"One night I came home after a fight and my mother was crying. She had found out. My father came in and started shouting at me. 'Viper, tramp,' he yelled. 'Fighting, fighting, fighting – for what?' I took out the $5 I had earned and handed it to him. He looked at it, smiled and put his arms around me. 'That's all right, Benny,' he said. 'When are you going to fight again?'"

If Leonard wasn't the best 135-pounder ever to lace up a pair of gloves, a case can be made that Roberto Duran was. And while the slums of El Chorrillo, Panama, were markedly different from New York's Jewish ghetto in some respects, there also were some striking similarities. Other desperate Panamanian children survived by singing or dancing on street corners or becoming adept at picking pockets, but Duran seemed to understand that his fists were the tools through which he might fashion a way out. He began sparring with experienced boxers when he was just 8 years old.

Over the years, America – and the world – developed a torrid love-hate affair with a man who at once embodied all that was beautiful and barbaric in boxing. It was this Duran, arrogant, abusive and a master of mind games, who outfought and outpsyched Sugar Ray Leonard to capture the WBC welterweight championship on June 20, 1980, in the first act of their classic trilogy. Former heavyweight champion Joe Frazier also was renowned for his relentlessness, but even Smokin' Joe had to marvel at the beast that was Duran. Asked if Duran reminded him of anyone, Frazier replied, "Yeah, he reminds me of Charles Manson."

The personable Chandler had a more approachable demeanor out of the ring than Duran, but he was no less formidable inside the ropes. The former bantamweight champion turned pro at 19, after only two amateur fights, for the simplest of reasons – he needed cash in his pocket.

"I fought on a Friday and a Monday in the amateurs," Chandler recalled. "I turned pro after that figuring, 'Why fight for nothing?'"

But while many fighters go pro early for love of money, one – Giardello – did so for love and money. The former middleweight titlist, who was 78 when he died in 2008, was a gifted raconteur who could enthrall listeners with stories about his colorful past.

Giardello (real name: Carmine Tilelli) enlisted in the Army at 16, using the birth certificate of a friend's older cousin to circumvent the military's minimum-age requirement. A Brooklyn native, he turned up in South Philadelphia to visit an Army pal when he fell hard for a local girl, Rosalie Monzo, who in short order became his wife.

"I had to do something, right?" Giardello said of his immediate prospects for providing for his new bride. "So I went to the gym and took up boxing. I had never fought before, at least in the ring, but I was in a lot of fights, if you know what I mean. I got me a manager and started fighting."

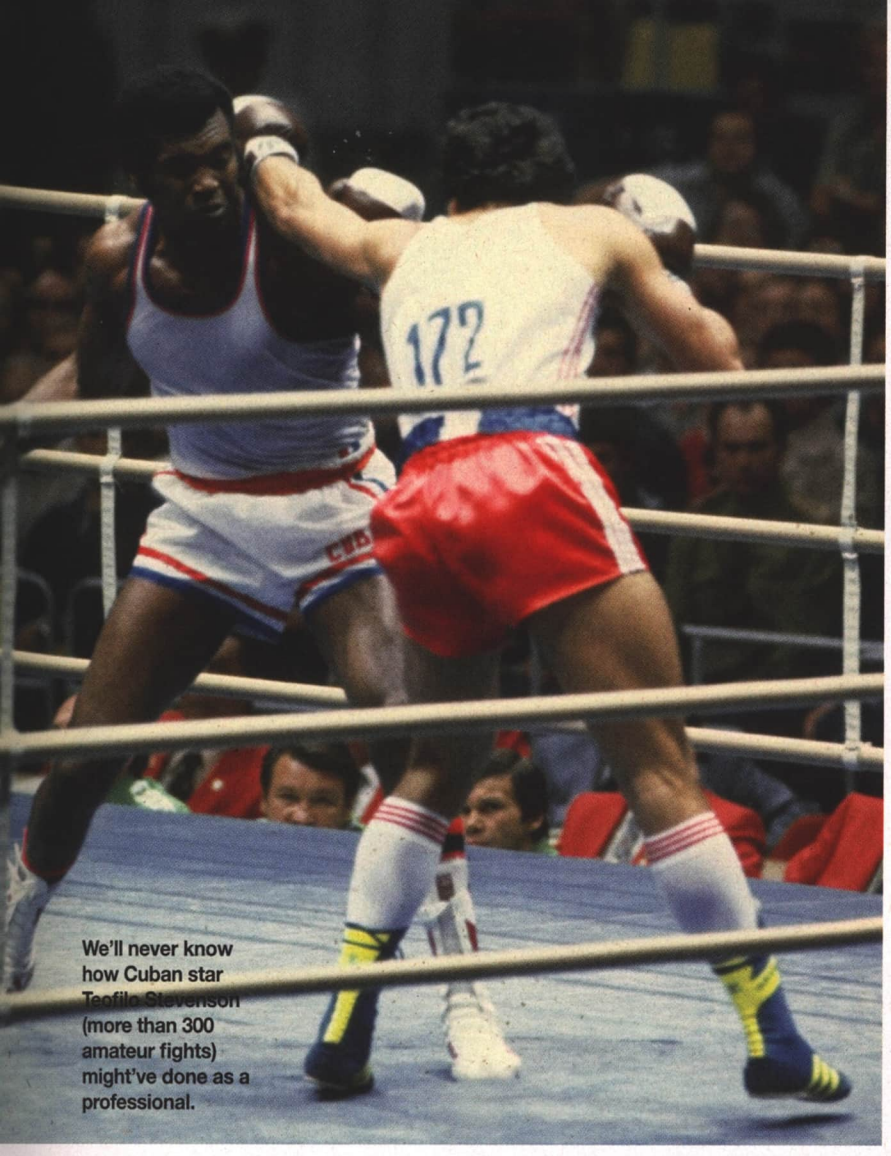
Assemble a panel of knowledgeable boxing people and the consensus probably would be that the likelihood of pro success is enhanced if the preparation process includes a lengthy amateur apprenticeship. No matter how taxing the crossover, it probably isn't as difficult as being thrown into the deep end of the pool and being asked to splash furiously to avoid drowning.

But there are exceptions to every rule, and the potential for debate is endless. How would a prime-on-prime matchup of Marciano, who was just 8-4 as an amateur, and three-time Olympic champion Teofilo Stevenson of Cuba, who never had a pro bout but was 302-22 during his storied amateur career, have turned out? Both were pulverizing punchers who could turn out the lights on any opponent with a single shot.

There are those – Roach, Lou Duva and the late, great Emanuel Steward – who expressed their belief that the most common-sense method of blending the amateur and pro versions of boxing is to allow accomplished pro trainers increased access to top amateurs. If nothing else, that might help the U.S. avoid another embarrassment like the men's medal shutout it was obliged to endure at the 2012 London Games.

Roach, who had been named a consultant to USA Boxing for the presumed purpose of helping American kids maximize their medal chances, didn't accompany the team to London because he felt his contributions weren't really welcomed. He spoke of the frustration in learning his role was, in fact, mostly ceremonial.

"The amateur coaches need to let the pro guys who want to help to actually help," Roach said from his Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood, Calif. "I brought four of my pros to the Olympic training center. (Lightweight champion) Adrien Broner's trainer (Mike Stafford) brought four of his pros, too. We tried to make those kids better fighters by pro-



We'll never know how Cuban star Teofilo Stevenson (more than 300 amateur fights) might've done as a professional.

Allsport UK /Allsport

viding them with a much better grade of opponent to spar with. It was a really good situation for the kids, I thought.

"But then one of the coaches said, 'If we win a gold medal, you're going to get all the credit after we did all the work.' I said, 'So what do you want? Do you want me and my guys to go home?' He said yeah, so we went home. They didn't want me there at all.

"These amateur coaches need to curb their attitude. The way it is, or at least was when I was there, was absolute B.S."

But Roach's experience is a familiar one. Duva, another Hall of Fame trainer, was told, in so many words, to butt out when he showed up at the 1996 U.S. Olympic Boxing Trials in Oakland, Calif., to provide whatever assistance he could to five Olympic hopefuls he had been assisting.

"The amateur boxing establishment's position is that it doesn't want professional boxing interests to 'contaminate' their product," Duva said at the time. "They act like we're ruining amateur boxing or something. What are they so afraid of?"

When traveling, there are ways to arrive at the same destination by taking different routes. Isn't it the same in boxing? Who's to say if a certain variation of the pugilistic arts is always preferable to another? As is the case with Picasso and Monet, beauty is always in the eye of the beholder. RING

ROADS TO SUCCESS

There is more than one path to world titles as a professional boxer. Some champions start out with a great deal of amateur experience (example: Guillermo Rigondeaux) and others (Saul "Canelo" Alvarez) don't. Here are five who took these separate roads.

LITTLE OR NO AMATEUR EXPERIENCE

CANELO ALVAREZ
Amateur fights: 20
Pro record: 42-0-1, 30 KOs
Titles: RING, WBC and WBA junior middleweight

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.
Amateur fights: 2
Pro record: 46-1-1, 32 KOs
Titles: WBC middleweight

GUILLERMO JONES
Amateur fights: 24
Pro record: 39-3-2, 31 KOs
Titles: WBA cruiserweight

ANTONIO DEMARCO
Amateur fights: About 15
Pro record: 28-3-1, 21 KOs
Titles: WBC lightweight

GIOVANI SEGURA
Amateur fights: About 40
Pro record: 29-3-1, 25 KOs
Titles: RING, WBA and WBO junior flyweight

EXTENSIVE AMATEUR EXPERIENCE

LUCIAN BUTE
Amateur: 250
Pro record: 31-1, 24 KOs
Titles: IBF super middleweight

YURIORKIS GAMBOA
Amateur fights: 250
Pro record: 22-0, 16 KOs
Titles: WBA and IBF featherweight

GENNADY GOLOVKIN
Amateur: 350
Pro record: 26-0, 23 KOs
Titles: WBA middleweight

GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
Amateur fights: 412
Pro record: 12-0, 8 KOs
Titles: RING, WBA and WBO junior featherweight

ANDRE WARD
Amateur fights: 119
Pro record: 26-0, 14 KOs
Titles: RING, WBC and WBA super middleweight

NO LIMITS

ABNER MARES, HARDENED BY ADVERSITY AND EXPERIENCE, HAS EXCEEDED THE EXPECTATIONS OF MANY

By **Norm Frauenheim**

For Abner Mares, the 1,300 miles between Guadalajara, Mexico, and Los Angeles is more than a highlighted route on a map. Mares did more than just trace it. From one city to the other and back, he traveled it in a quest that serves as a timeline for a fighter who grew up crossing a real border several times and continues to cross symbolic ones in a resourceful style that makes some traditional limits look imaginary.

It's getting hard to say where it will take Mares. His career path has raced past modest expectations and beyond some adversity that seemed to dictate an early end. At first glance, he appeared to be a competent little guy and good B-side filler for undercards featuring a star he never figured to be. But appearances are little bit like a GPS screen full of step-by-step directions. Go right. Go straight.

Abner Mares has had a string of important victories, none bigger than his knockout of Daniel Ponce de Leon on May 4.

Jeff Bottari/Golden Boy via Getty Images; Inset: Naoki Fukuda

Mares' demeanor in the ring matches the forbidding scarf he wears as he walks into it.

Go left. Go where everybody else has gone. It's a reliable way to get there. But it's only one way.

Mares has found several ways in the fight to separate himself from a crowded rush to a destination where there is room for only a few.

Against Daniel Ponce de Leon in a featherweight fight that stole some thunder from Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s one-sided decision over Robert Guerrero on May 4, Mares stepped up in weight and into the pound-for-pound debate in at least two ways. There was a well-practiced left that knocked down Ponce de Leon in the second round. And in the ninth there was a spontaneous right thrown from a twisting, almost acrobatic angle that finished the fight and further embellished Mares' reputation for improvisation and versatility.

Before the Ponce de Leon bout, Mares hinted at newfound ability with a joke.

"I actually added something different to my training camp," Mares said a couple of days before opening bell at Las Vegas' MGM Grand. "It's called 'Mexican Judo.' It's 'ju-don't know if I'm going to box, or ju-don't know if I'm going to brawl. But you do know that I'm going to win.'"

"I actually added something different to my training camp. It's called 'Mexican Judo.' It's 'ju-don't know if I'm going to box, or ju-don't know if I'm going to brawl. But you do know that I'm going to win.'"

— Abner Mares

Naoki Fukuda

After he fulfilled his promise with a TKO victory, controversial low blows in 2011 against Joseph Agbeko were almost forgotten. At that time, some were calling Mares a dirty fighter, a modern version of Harry Greb, a 1920s middleweight and light heavyweight whose punches were legal only when he wasn't throwing them. Yeah, Mares can still fight that way if necessary. On display against Ponce de Leon, however, was the ongoing evolution of a fighter already proficient in many skills, yet still on a learning curve. That's no joke.

"He gets through tough situations, no matter how tough," Mares trainer Clemente Medina says.

He does.

Always has.

It's not so much his own toughness, although there's plenty of that. Ask Agbeko. Instead, there's a combo of flexibility and instinctive know-how that allows Mares to get a quick, accurate read on who he faces. What he faces.

"That's what makes him an exception," said manager Frank Espinoza, who found himself in an awkward spot on May 4 because he also manages Ponce de Leon. "It's what makes Abner special. He's smart and very shrewd."

Eventually, Mares might have exhibited the smarts in some other pursuit. He also might have been born with the shrewd edge of knowing when to talk, when to act and how to capitalize. But it's also an instinct he developed in a family with seven kids. Only the shrewd survive.

Born in 1985 in Guadalajara, Mares crossed the border into the U.S. in 1992 with his mom and five of his siblings. He was a 7-year-old when he arrived in Los Angeles and a neighborhood known as Hawaiian Gardens, a community that is neither island nor garden and only a paradise for the kind of unregulated violence celebrated by gangbangers. Mares slept on the floor and did some dumpster diving when he got hungry.

After his dad, Ismael, joined the family in Southern California, he took his son to the gym, maybe to get off the mean streets or maybe to learn some self-defense. Whatever the motivation, Mares took to it. He felt at home amid familiar rhythms that regulate the daily regimen at any gym. His father, after all, had been a boxer, too.

For eight years, Mares fought as an amateur and on the streets. When he was 15, his dad sent him back to Guadalajara, where Mares would pursue his dream of fighting in the Olympics. By then, he was more American than Mexican. Even today when he speaks, there's no hint of a Mexican accent. He sounds like a kid who grew up in California. But he fought for Mexico at the Athens Games in 2004, losing a controversial preliminary to a Hungarian southpaw, Zsolt Bedák, at an Olympics remembered for Andre Ward's gold medal and Amir Khan's silver.

In hindsight, that forgettable loss, or at least its aftermath, was a significant milestone in Mares' compelling emergence. He cried. Oscar De La Hoya's wife, Millie, saw the tears during an interview on Mexican television. Mares' honest emotion won her over. She talked her husband into taking another look at Mares as a possibility for his fledgling company, Golden Boy Promotions.

De La Hoya was convinced. Mares has been with Golden Boy ever since signing a few months

A left hook from Mares similar to this one put Ponce de Leon down in the second round. Another knockdown in the ninth ended matters.

after the closing ceremonies in Athens. Mares was – is – the counter argument to critics who dismissed Golden Boy's ability to develop its own talent. He is Golden Boy's first major champion. That would have been enough for any press release and probably enough to keep him in the front office for as long as he wanted to be in boxing without having to step through the ropes.

Yet even before he won his first major title in a 2010 upset of Vic Darchinyan by split decision, it looked as if he was finished. Late in 2008, he was diagnosed with a detached retina. Continue to fight, the ophthalmologist told him, and you'll be half blind for the rest of your life. It was a sobering lesson for an ambitious 22-year-old who had a wife and child to support. Yet, Mares never gave up on his belief that he somehow would recover. Night after night, he walked the halls at a nearby school as a security guard. Day after day, he visited the doctor, hoping for some good news. 24/7, he dreamed about answering another opening bell. After almost a year away from the ring, he did.

A few weeks after undergoing surgery, the doctor told him that the healing process had progressed in a way that maybe he could fight again. Mares was cleared to train, initially at Nacho Beristain's gym in Mexico City. Then he fought and won a sixth-round TKO of Jonathan Perez on May 2, 2009, in Las Vegas. But there was a difference.

Mares went back to work without some of the illusions he'd had before a torn retina almost detached him from what had been a kid's dream. Hard lessons, he said, forced him to see things with a maturity that too many fighters don't attain until it's too late. He looked at himself differently. And he wanted everybody around him to see that difference. Hence, the look that identifies him when he enters the ring these days: From the bottom of his eyes to his chin, a bright bandanna covers his face with the fearsome image of a skull.

"It represents a different, mean-

er Abner," Mares said. "When they told me I couldn't fight any more, I was mad. When I got the green light to return about a year later, I wanted to come back to my beloved sport a little different, a lot meaner.

"I don't know if it scares anybody."

It doesn't have to. That bandanna is not a mask so much as it is a reflection of an uncompromising commitment to a brutal business. It's in his bones. It's also a stark, perhaps ruthless, expression of a fearless streak. To win, Mares will do what he has to, which he has done at a rate that has already placed him alongside some legends.

At 27, Mares has won three titles at three different weights – 118, 122 and 126 pounds. On a list of Mexican greats, that ties him for second with Erik Morales, who at 27 had won at 122, 126 and 130 pounds. Eight years later, a 35-year-old Morales won a fourth title at 140.

There's not much surprise about which Mexican legend pulled off the triple faster than any other. At 26, Julio Cesar Chavez had won titles at 130, 135 and 140 pounds.

Chavez, Morales and Mares are the top of a list that is probably meaningful only in Mexico, where boxing still matters. Nevertheless, it adds up to celebrity and opportunity that has eluded Mares on the American side of his hyphenated nationality. Despite Mares' career as a Mexican amateur, he has yet to fight as a pro in the country of his birth.

"With his intelligence and charisma, yes, we'd like to expose him more with fights in Mexico," Espinoza said. "No doubt. I could see him fight one day at 130. But for now I think there are a lot of good fights at 126, and some of those could be in Mexico."

Mares still lobbies for a shot at Nonito Donaire, who was honored in April as the 2012 Fighter of the Year by the Boxing Writers Association of America only to lose to Guillermo Rigondeaux at junior featherweight a couple of nights later in New York. Rigondeaux is also on Mares' list. But Mares in a fight with either one of them looks about as likely as world peace. Donaire and Rigondeaux are Top Rank fighters. So, too, are Mikey Garcia and Juan Manuel Lopez. Mares is a Golden Boy client. For as long as there is a Top Rank-Golden Boy feud, Mares' opportunities are limited.

"There are a lot of good fights at 126, but here's the thing: So many of the best at the weight are with Top Rank, which sucks," Mares says in a tone as matter-of-fact as it is forthright. "I know Donaire lost, but I still want that fight. I'm even willing to go down in weight for the chance. There are other possibilities out there. But there's some unfinished business between me and Donaire. That's why he's still at the top of my list."

For the next year to 18 months, there are enough opportunities to keep Mares busy enough to keep him in the pound-for-pound debate. He's No. 5, according to THE RING's latest ranking. For the near future, Robinson Castellanos looms as the WBC's mandatory challenger in a fight that looks as if it could turn into a Mexican homecoming for Mares.

Then, there's a possible rematch with Ponce de Leon. There was mild controversy about referee Jay Nady's stoppage on May 4. Some argued it was premature, although a Mares victory appeared to be only a matter of time after he dropped Ponce de Leon, a longtime friend and occasional sparring partner, for a second time.

"With that controversy, yeah, we could do a rematch," Espinoza said. "But not in the next fight."

The biggie appears to be Mares against rising star Leo Santa Cruz, a 118-pound champion who, on May4 in his first fight at 122, scored an impressive fifth-round stoppage of Alexander Munoz. Within the Golden Boy office, there's been some talk that the 24-year-old Santa Cruz has the potential to beat Mares.

Santa Cruz throws body punches with a rapid ferocity not often seen, much less endured. What's more, Santa Cruz and Mares have similar backgrounds. Like Mares, Santa Cruz was born in Mexico before emigrating north to Los Angeles. For now, however, it's a fight before its time. Let it marinate for a while, Espinoza says.

"That could be a big, big fight for L.A.," Espinoza said. "But not now. Maybe next year."

That's enough time for Mares to learn a few more tricks as he continues on a path certain to present more challenges, unhindered by the borders he has already crossed.

"With his intelligence and charisma, yes, we'd like to expose him more with fights in Mexico. No doubt. I could see him fight one day at 130. But for now I think there are a lot of good fights at 126, and some of those could be in Mexico." — ***Frank Espinoza***

Naoki Fukuda

GRAND ILLUSIONIST

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.'S REUNION WITH DAD CREATED MAGIC AGAINST ROBERT GUERRERO BUT LEFT SOME FANS UNFULFILLED

By **Ron Borges**

Floyd Mayweather Sr. was back in his son's corner on May 4 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena with predictable results – Floyd Mayweather Jr. was almost unhittable and nearly unwatchable.

The undefeated WBC welterweight champion had all his ducks in a row, boxing beautifully through 12 nearly uncontested rounds while easily outpointing a frustrated and overmatched Robert Guerrero to lift his record to 44-0. Long ago his father taught him the mysteries of the shoulder roll, footwork, timing and, most of all, avoidance, and his son has

LOSER
RINGSIDE
THE GHOST

GRAND ILLUSIONIST

Floyd Mayweather Jr. calmly and coolly picked Robert Guerrero apart.

taken those very real skills to the highest level.

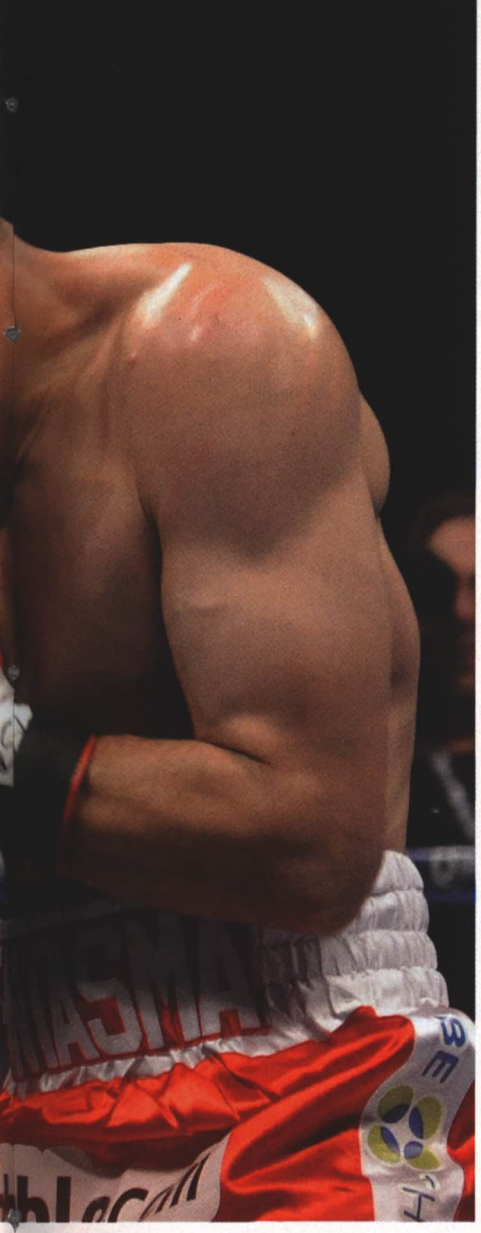
When prepared by his father, Mayweather Jr. becomes a Grand Illusionist, someone who can make himself disappear again and again just at the moment his unsuspecting opponent launches leather in his direction. On May 4, that often resulted in Guerrero punching the ropes rather than his ghostly adversary. On one occasion it sent him falling through those ropes, his head shooting toward the crowd like a jack-in-the-box while Mayweather stood behind him, grinning.

In such a circumstance Mayweather Jr. is commander of the ring, someone with an understanding of space to rival Frank Lloyd Wright, who has a Euclidian grasp of angles and their precise relationship to his well-being. These are the well-honed skills that have made him the best pure boxer of his time.

Few fighters could or should be compared defensively with Willie Pep or Pernell Whitaker but the Mayweather who so thoroughly outmaneuvered Guerrero is that rare person. That, too, is likely to become his problem if the training relationship with his father continues.

As the rounds wore on and Mayweather's defensive mastery wore Guerrero down, it also wore down a restless crowd of 15,880 increasingly bored fans. If they wanted to see a dancing act, there were far more curvaceous ones available up and down the Las Vegas Strip. They had come to see a fight and didn't even see an argument break out.

By the midway point of a bout Mayweather would win by identical 117-111 scores on all three judges' cards, those patrons began to boo and a noticeable number simply got up and walked out. Those boos persisted for the rest of the evening, intensifying once the bout was over and both fighters raised their hands in search of



Naoki Fukuda

"After the Cotto fight, I knew I was getting hit too much and I needed my father. My father would help me get hit less. I was really happy to be back with my father." ***— Floyd Mayweather Jr.***

applause that did not come.

The problem with the approach Mayweather took against Guerrero upon his father's return to his corner for the first time in 13 years is that boxing is more than sport. It is also entertainment, and unless you were an aficionado of the Sweet Science (which, let's be honest, most viewers these days are not) there is little perceived entertainment value in watching a fighter box as if he's an insurance agent considering the risk-reward ratio before every punch.

On a night in which he was utterly dominant, Mayweather threw an average of only 39 punches per round, according to CompuBox statistics. More damning, he landed an average of barely 16 despite connecting on 60 percent of his power shots (a loosely used phrase to describe any punch but a jab).

Even when he clearly hurt Guerrero in the eighth round, cutting him and rocking him with lead right hands flush to his ample chin whiskers, Mayweather refused to come forward and try to close the show as he'd begun to do more and more under the direction of his uncle, former two-time world champion Roger Mayweather, who was replaced for this fight by his older brother and, frankly, training rival.

The two could not have a more different approach to the sport. The elder Mayweather was a safety-first fighter and adopted the same training approach. His brother was bolder in the ring and more successful but also took more punishment during his own career, and it shows.

Mayweather Jr. claimed he was re-installing his father as chief second even while still working the mitts with his uncle because Roger's ongoing battle with diabetes had begun to affect his vision. Perhaps this is true but Roger was adamant the day before the fight that he would be in the corner on fight night. He was not, and Mayweather admitted in the days before facing Guerrero that after defeating Miguel Cotto in his last outing a year ago he felt he'd taken too much punishment.

Mayweather Jr. was hit more that night than in any fight of his career, his bloody lip and nose wearing the crimson proof of that as the crowd roared its approval. He still won clearly but had gone flat-footed a number of times, exchanging with Cotto in a way he later said was designed to please the crowd.

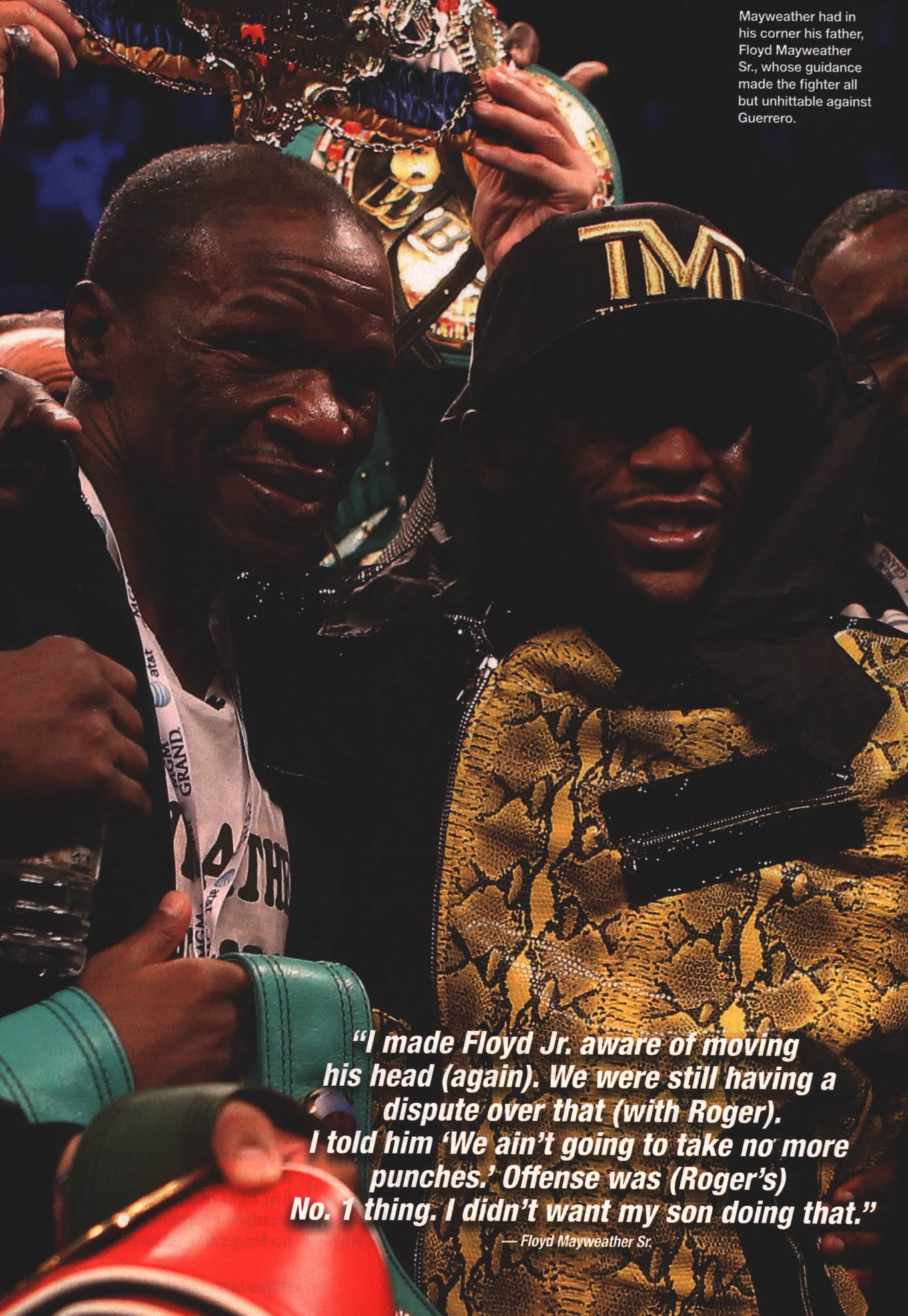
He achieved that goal but apparently later decided pleasing the crowd is not his obligation nor his interest, at least not if he has to leak some plasma to do it.

"After the Cotto fight I knew I was getting hit too much and I needed my father," Mayweather said after his hand was raised for the 21st straight time in a world title fight. "My father would help me get hit less. I was really happy to be back with my father.

"My defense was on point. He just told me 'Stick with your defense. The less you get hit the better. Just box smart.' Robert was a tough warrior but there really wasn't much he could do."

That's true and it's also the point: Since Guerrero was helpless, why didn't Mayweather do more than content himself with ducking and dodging his way to victory while seemingly able to land a lead right hand to the face whenever he wanted to throw it?

It is difficult to know why, especially when a 36-year-old fighter is coming off a victory in which he admits he felt he'd been hit too much. Many theorized that the Cotto fight had revealed the first signs of slippage in Mayweather, a warning that his legs no longer moved as swiftly as



Mayweather had in his corner his father, Floyd Mayweather Sr., whose guidance made the fighter all but unhittable against Guerrero.

"I made Floyd Jr. aware of moving his head (again). We were still having a dispute over that (with Roger). I told him 'We ain't going to take no more punches.' Offense was (Roger's) No. 1 thing. I didn't want my son doing that."

— Floyd Mayweather Sr.

they once had and his reflexes had begun to dull.

None of that was in evidence against Guerrero but then again neither was the warrior mentality fans demand, especially when being asked to pay $70 on pay-per-view and hundreds, if not thousands, to sit in the arena and watch.

Boxing is a blood sport whether we care to acknowledge it or not. That doesn't mean a great tactician like Mayweather should sacrifice himself or his defensive skills totally just to please the crowd, but the truth of the matter is the way he boxed against Guerrero is exactly why he was not a box office hit until he decided to change his approach the past few years and take more risks.

Not risks like going over Niagara Falls in a barrel or walking across the Grand Canyon on a tightrope without a net. Simply risks like opening up offensively and attacking from time to time once an opponent has been stuck and gored enough to be ready for final destruction.

To be careful is wise in boxing. To fight like Winky Wright is to be unwise, at least if you want to keep packing the house. Still, Mayweather's old new trainer had his reasons for the return to reticence.

"With Roger, offense definitely got him in trouble (during his own career)," Floyd Sr. said after the fight. "I didn't see the Cotto fight but I was told my son got hit quite often. It ain't about taking punches. Ali took a good punch. No disrespect but look at him."

"I made Floyd aware of moving his head (again). We were still having a dispute over that (with Roger). I told him 'We ain't going to take no more punches.' Offense was (Roger's) No. 1 thing. I didn't want my son doing that."

"I came back and you saw what happened. I'm the head coach whether (Roger's) there or not. Floyd is back. The real Floyd."

That is the long-term dilemma, for it was also the boring Floyd, the safety first (and often second) Floyd, the Floyd who failed to inspire much of a following earlier in his career when Floyd Sr. had him under his direction. His father never wanted his son to be hit and to avoid it he created a defensive genius who at times seems to simply float away from other men's bad intentions as if he were reading their minds. It is a brilliant strategy if longevity is your primary desire. But if entertainment is part of the equation, too, which it has to be when you are guaranteed $32 million per fight, there is a balancing act required between defensive brilliance and confrontation avoidance.

While those devotees who see the manly art of self-defense as the art of hitting without being hit found Mayweather Jr. brilliant, he paid a price for taking the safest road to his payday (in addition to the $32 million, he also gets 90 percent of the profits from pay-per-view sales): the vocal displeasure of fleeing customers.

The booing and criticism led Showtime Vice President for Programming Stephen Espinoza to muse to the New York Times after the decision was announced that, "There is an under-appreciation of him, and I don't quite get it. When he wins convincingly, people revise history and say he didn't fight a good opponent. He can't win for winning."

This is what men in suits who have never worn boxing boots but have committed millions of their company's money to one fighter say, but it was far from the truth in this case. First, Mayweather Jr. is very well appreciated (not to mention compensated). But appreciation does not demand blindness.

Second, he is also, at least when his father is in charge of his preparation, a safety first, risk-averse boxer throwing 39 punches per round; someone doing enough with his speed and agility to make a monkey of 7-1 underdogs like Guerrero (who was never considered a "good" opponent but rather an earnest guy trying to make a living for his wife and kids) but taking no risks to do it in the way a Sugar Ray Leonard or Roberto Duran would have.

When asked about fighting again in September, for example, Mayweather said that was his intention but it would be the shortest span between fights for him in 13 years if he does. He mentioned to a crowd of reporters at the post-fight press conference that he'd injured his right hand at some point in the fight, showing the puffiness that frankly did not appear to be all that unusual for men who throw punches for a living.

Yet when asked if that next opponent might be the highly regarded Mexican Saul "Canelo" Alvarez, who recently dropped Austin Tout while winning the RING championship and unifying the WBC and WBA junior middleweight titles, he immediately began to slip and slide, again operating the way he likes best – on the defensive.

"I'm closer to 40 than 21," Mayweather said. "I'm in a position to take some time off. Canelo Alvarez is a hell of a fighter but he's a young guy. I thought his fight with Trout was a much closer fight (than the judges saw it). I've earned my stripes."

In other words, "Hell no." Still, Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer said two days

Jed Jacobsohn/Golden Boy/Golden Boy via Getty Images

Mayweather received a Lil support from a well-known hip hop artist – Lil Wayne – as he made his way to the ring to face Guerrero. (Below) Mayweather was gracious afterward.

after the fight he continued to hope the match could be made for Mexican Independence Day weekend, insisting, "When I talk with boxing fans, especially the Mexican fans, that's the fight they ask about.

"For a long time it was Mayweather-Pacquiao but, as we know, that fight didn't happen. Now when I'm in a crowd they holler 'Come on, Schaefer. Make Canelo and Mayweather.' That's what I'm hoping to do."

Perhaps it will happen, but if it doesn't before the end of Mayweather's 2½-year Showtime contract that has five fights left expires, it would mean that somehow the best fighter of his era managed to miss his two biggest challengers – Pacquiao and Alvarez. There is a price to pay for that.

When Mayweather's father was asked about facing Alvarez next he said, "Did you see what happened tonight? Did you see what happened to him with Trout? If Floyd takes that fight, it will be easy. Any guy who throws (wide) punches like that can't hit me and he won't hit Floyd either. He showed a little defensive moves himself but there is so much stuff Floyd can hit him with.

"He might be a little tough or he might not be nothing. From what I've seen I didn't see nothing. I'm being honest with you. It would be easy for Little Floyd if he did what he did tonight – get up on his toes and pop, pop, pop."

Of course there was far more Floyd on his toes than Floyd pop, pop, popping against Guerrero. There were few left hands coming behind those sizzling right leads, the younger Mayweather refusing to take any chance that Guerrero (31-2-1, 18 KO) might counter him. Guerrero's volcanic trainer/father, Ruben, hollered his frustration from the corner after the fight: "He ran like a chicken!"

That isn't quite how it went, but he didn't crow like a rooster or fight like a hawk either. Instead he did what he could do safely, which was mesmerize Guerrero. Mayweather wrapped him in a defensive fog so thick it left Guerrero hesitant to throw after the first few rounds, embarrassed, it seemed, by his inability to hit his target and thus less and less willing to try.

In his two previous fights as a welterweight – against more cooperative and less fluid Selcuk Aydin and Andre Berto – Guerrero averaged 71 punches per round. Against Mayweather he was down to 48 and that production slowed considerably in the second half of the fight. That sluggish output was a direct result of Mayweather's defensive prowess, because he doesn't just blocks punches – he makes you feel stupid for bothering to throw them.

That is a valuable skill, yet one not appreciated much in the marketplace. If you think otherwise ask Whitaker or Wright, who were both considered to be audience killers for much of their careers despite superior defensive fortresses.

"If he called that running, that man must be blind," Mayweather Sr. countered when told of the chicken allegation. "My son made his son hit the ropes. Alvarez will run into the ropes too. Floyd just made his son look like a fool all night."

True as that assessment of Guerrero's fate was, Floyd Mayweather Sr. missed one salient point: A significant portion of the audience at the MGM Grand got up and walked out of the arena before the fight was over, feeling the same way Robert Guerrero did.

REPORT CARD

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. UD 12 ROBERT GUERRERO

MAY 4, 2013, MGM GRAND, LAS VEGAS

THE MAIN EVENT
B- Those who appreciate a sublime demonstration of the finer points of boxing loved it. Those who crave action didn't.

MAYWEATHER
A- Only A-? The only flaw in a wonderful exhibition of boxing was Mayweather's inability to put away his helpless prey.

GUERRERO
D We shouldn't be too hard on Guerrero, who was given a near-impossible task. We expected more than that, though.

FLOYD MAYWEATHER SR.
(Mayweather's trainer)
A Junior seemed to be more vulnerable to punches than usual against Miguel Cotto. He brings in dad. Problem solved.

RUBEN GUERRERO
(Guerrero's trainer)
C+ Guerrero seemed to be prepared and tried to adjust during the fight. He simply didn't have the tools to compete.

THE JUDGES
A The unanimous score of 117-111 somehow seems too close in an obvious rout but Guerrero did win a few rounds.

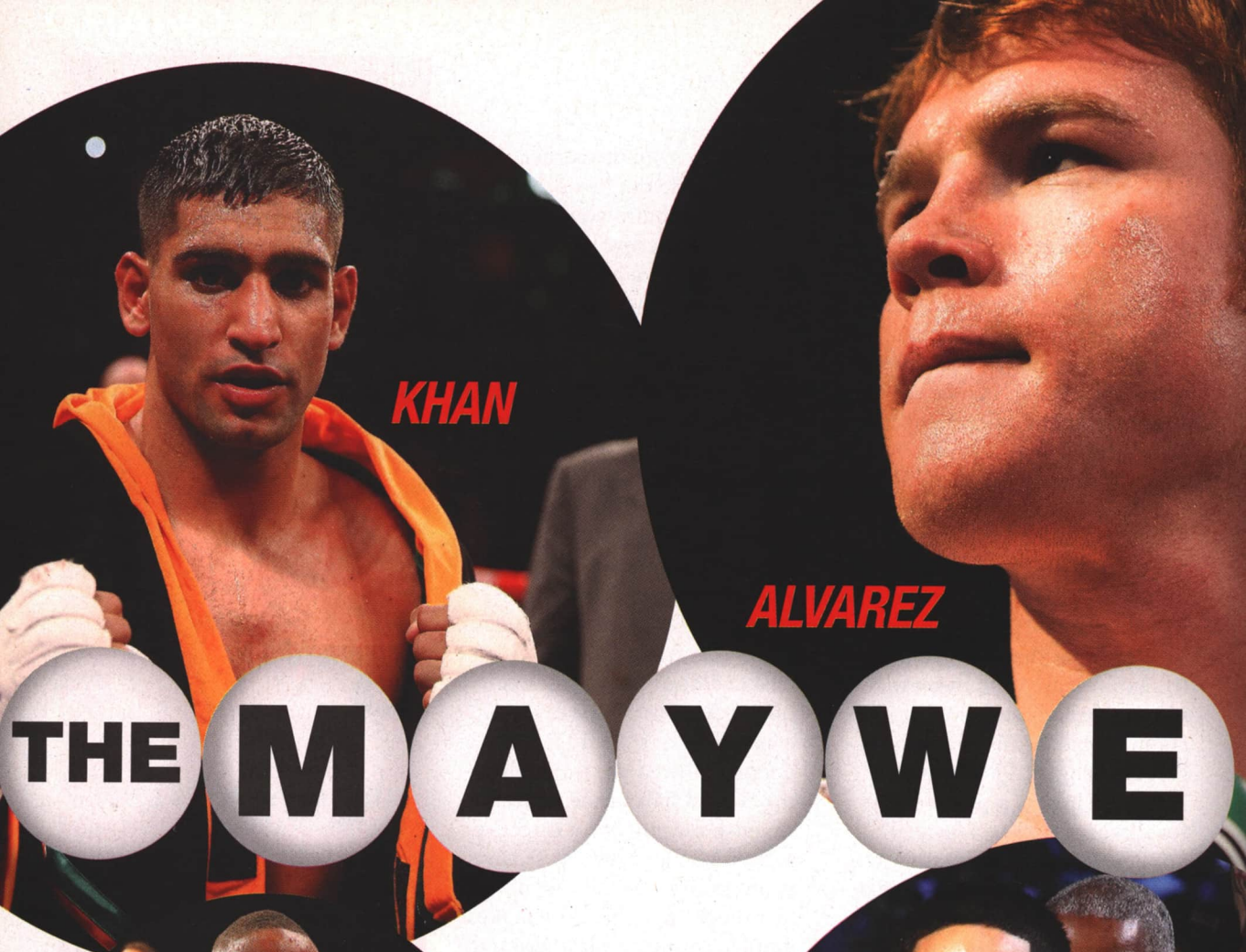
REFEREE
A I couldn't remember that Robert Byrd was the referee, which is a good sign. He kept the focus on the fighters.

THE ATMOSPHERE
B The fans created electricity early on but became frustrated and quiet – other than boos – once the rout was on.

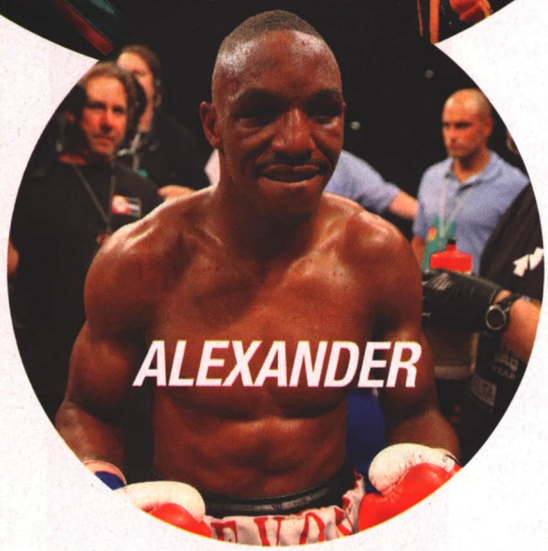
THE UNDERCARD
B+ Knockout victories by Abner Mares and Leo Santa Cruz were both impressive and entertaining.

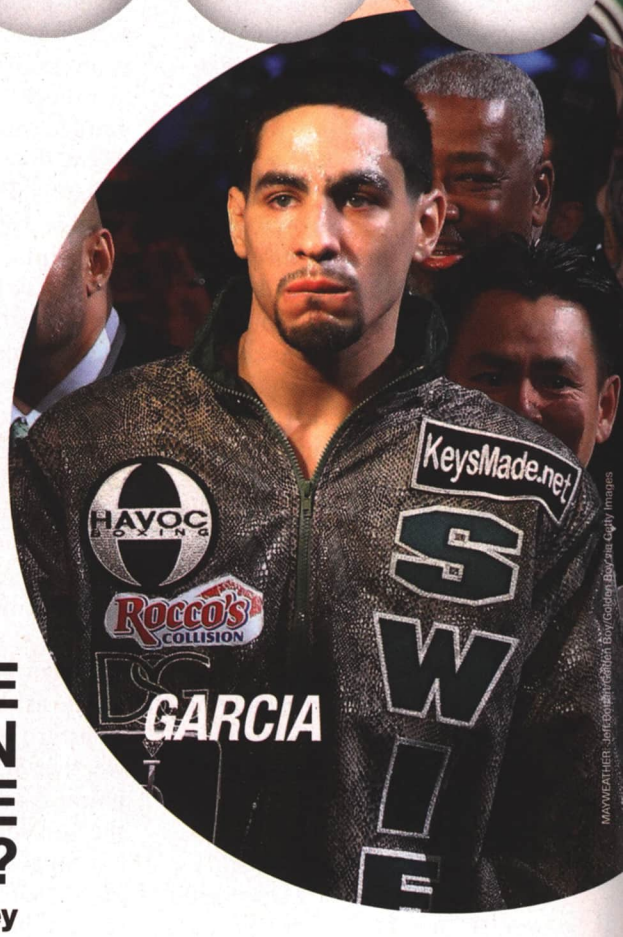
– Michael Rosenthal

Jed Jacobsohn/Golden Boy/Golden Boy via Getty Images



THE MAYWE

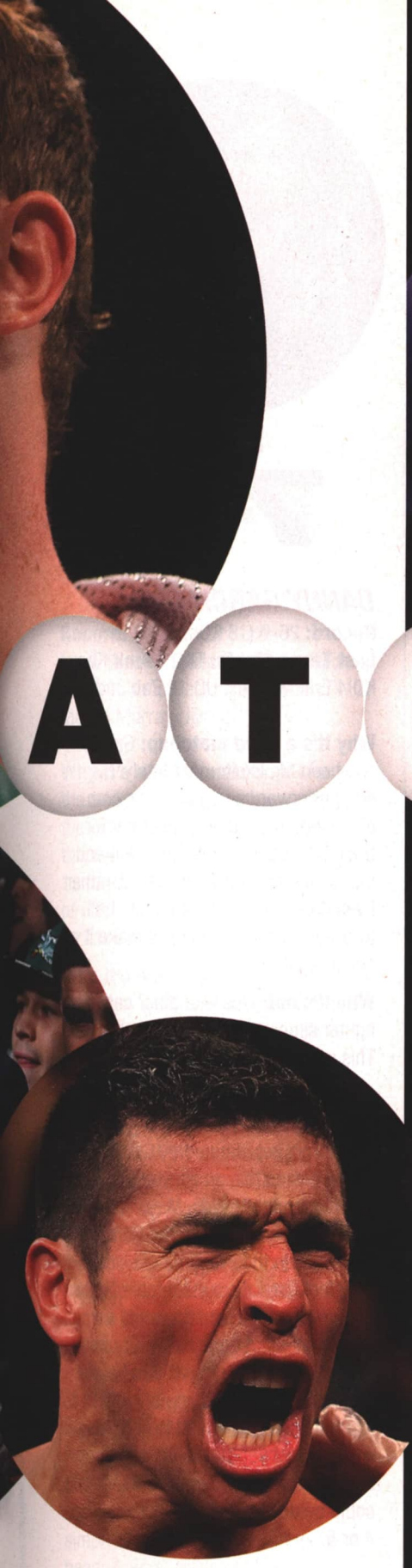




MAYWEATHER: Jeff Bottari/Golden Boy; Garcia: Al Bello/Getty Images

'MONEY' WILL FACE CANELO ALVAREZ ON SEPT. 14. WHO ELSE WILL HE FIGHT?

By **Don Stradley**



Floyd Mayweather Jr. has a pool of prominent fighters from which to choose his next opponent.

ATHER LOTTERY

Judging by the jeering that went on during the late rounds of Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s win over Robert Guerrero, and with pay-per-view buys for the event falling a bit short of what Showtime might have hoped for, the good folks responsible for Mayweather's future had some serious tasks in front of them. They clearly needed to put together something special for his next outing.

Mission accomplished.

It was announced on May 29, as THE RING was going to press, that Mayweather will face RING junior middleweight champion Saul "Canelo" Alvarez on Sept. 14 in Las Vegas in a mega-matchup of two of the sport's most-popular figures.

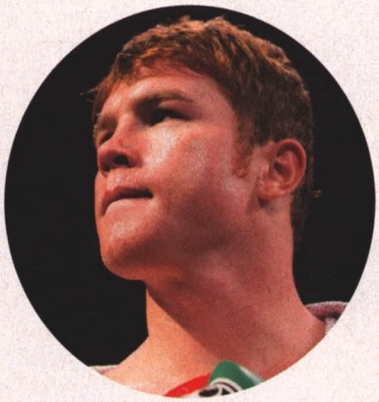
It will take place at a catch weight of 152 pounds and will unify the WBA (Mayweather) and WBC (Alvarez) 154-pound titles.

"I chose my opponent for September 14th and it's Canelo Alvarez," Mayweather wrote on his Twitter account. "I'm giving the fans what they want. It will be at the MGM Grand."

That leaves four more opponents to complete Mayweather's massive six-fight contract. For now, the search for foes who will not only give Mayweather a fight but help create interest is on hold. He must concentrate on Alvarez.

The search, or at least a discussion, probably will resume on Sept. 15. Here is a look at the Mayweather-Alvarez matchup and four possible future opponents (and odds they will face Mayweather at some point):

MARTINEZ



DATE

SEPT. 14

SAUL "CANELO" ALVAREZ

Record: 42-0-1, 30 KOs
Last Three Fights: UD 12 Shane Mosley; KO 5 Josesito Lopez; UD 12 Austin Trout

Why it's a good matchup: When a recent poll at Ringtv.com asked readers to select an opponent for Mayweather, Alvarez grabbed nearly 70 percent of the votes. Not only has Alvarez captured the imagination of fans, he's also improved considerably over his last few fights. He's a huge star in Mexico, so he wouldn't be too concerned about the hurricane of publicity that comes with fighting Mayweather. Alvarez, THE RING junior middleweight champion, also has youth on his side.

Why it's not: Alvarez has improved, but he's not a great fighter. Mayweather might go into his defensive mode and win a snorer on points. Two snorers in a row would be bad for business.

Why did Mayweather chose Alvarez? One reason is money. No matchup, with the possible exception of Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao, could generate as much cash as this one. And Mayweather undoubtedly wanted an opponent with a higher profile than Robert Guerrero. Alvarez fits the bill. Mayeather also probably doesn't perceive Alvarez as a serious threat. The Mexican looked good against Austin Trout but his skills aren't on par with Mayweather's.

ODDS

3-1

AMIR KHAN

Record: 28-3, 19 KOs
Last three fights: TKO 4 by Danny Garcia; TKO 10 Carlos Molina; UD 12 Julio Diaz

Why it's a good matchup: How can Floyd not like fighting a guy who is chinny and erratic, yet has a large following in England? Floyd could take Showtime on the road. The network's All Access program was very predictable leading up to the Guerrero bout, but against Khan we could see Mayweather visit England, jaw with Brit fans, visit Buckingham Palace and finally consider himself an "international star." Meanwhile, Khan, for all of his flaws, is a classic boxer-puncher and moves very well. If Khan is focused, this could be a very interesting fight.

Why it's not: Khan's chin might invite Floyd to try for the KO. Floyd isn't a big puncher, but if you have a bad chin he'll find it. Also, Khan is new at welterweight, and Floyd might be stronger than the Brit realizes. This could be a disaster for Khan. We picture him hitting the canvas a bunch of times, as Diego Corrales did against Floyd many years ago.

Odds it will happen at some point (and why): 3-1. Mayweather probably sees Khan as a non-risky opponent.

ODDS

7-1

DANNY GARCIA

Record: 26-0 (16 KOs)
Last Three Fights: TKO 4 Amir Khan; KO 4 Erik Morales; UD 12 Zab Judah

Why it's a good matchup: Garcia has been Mr. Excitement lately. His straightforward slugging style, combined with his father's penchant for trash talk, could make him a fun and interesting challenger for Mayweather. Even if he misses every punch, he'll throw 700 or so. Garcia will make it an action fight.

Why it's not: This is another case of a fighter simply not being in Floyd's class. This could be Guerrero all over again.

Odds it will happen at some point (and why): 7-1. Like Devon Alexander, Garcia is promoted by Golden Boy, which makes this an easy one at the negotiating table. Plus, Mayweather saw that Zab Judah buzzed Garcia a few times in their recent bout, so he may feel Garcia is a vulnerable fighter. Still, even Garcia's camp would admit their man is not quite ready. Garcia said after the Judah fight that he still had things to learn. If you are still learning, you don't need to fight Mayweather just yet. However, with Showtime looking for five opponents, Garcia could be penciled in as a potential No. 4 or 5.

KHAN: Scott Heavey/Getty Images; ALVEREZ: Josh Hedges/Getty Images; GARCIA: Elsa/Getty Images; ALEXANDER/MARTINEZ: Al Bello/Getty Images

ODDS
8-1

SERGIO MARTINEZ

Record: 51-2-2 (28 KOs)
Last Three Fights: Matthew Macklin TKO 11; Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. UD 12; Martin Murray UD 12

Why it's a good matchup: Martinez, the middleweight champion, might be the only legitimately great fighter on this list. He has a tendency to fight all 12 rounds, rarely tires and has the kind of offbeat style that could be difficult for Mayweather.

Why it's not: Martinez is 38, he's been in a lot of wars and he's been hobbled lately with hand and knee injuries. It might be too late for him.

Odds it will happen at some point (and why): 8-1. Mayweather might like a shot at the middleweight title, and Martinez is a smallish middleweight. Also, Martinez has looked vulnerable recently, which might make him seem more attractive to Mayweather. Martinez might want it, too, for he has yet to make a mega payday, and the window of opportunity is closing. He might even agree to fight at 154, which he has talked about in the past. Working against this fight are two things: Mayweather might not like Martinez's style, and Martinez, who has struggled in his last two bouts, might simply want a soft opponent as he heads toward retirement.

ODDS
10-1

DEVON ALEXANDER

Record: 25-1 (14 KOs)
Last Three Fights: UD 10 Marcos Maidana; UD 12 Randall Bailey; TKO 7 Lee Purdy

Why it's a good matchup: Mayweather would like to beat another youngster while he's in the sort of form he showed against Guerrero. He likes the idea of being an older fighter beating young men. As for Alexander, he's won some titles, he has some skills and after blowing the biggest bout of his career against Timothy Bradley, he is aching for redemption on a big stage.

Why it's not: Alexander isn't in Mayweather's class or well known.

Odds it will happen at some point (and why): 10-1. Alexander is a Golden Boy fighter and a highly rated welterweight, which makes things easy. Also, the folks behind Mayweather's megadeal with Showtime need a fighter they can lowball. The idea is for Mayweather to make the money, not his opponent, and Alexander would probably take the fight just for the exposure and the opportunity. What might prevent it from happening is that Alexander will be a hard sell. He's certainly not pay-per-view material. Mayweather might as well fight "Chop Chop" Corley again.

LONG SHOTS

These five opponents are probably not in the running, but one never knows.

Manny Pacquiao:
It seems silly to still be thinking about it, but if Manny does well in his upcoming bout with Brandon Rios and rival promoters can cooperate with one another, people would still buy into Mayweather-Pacquiao.

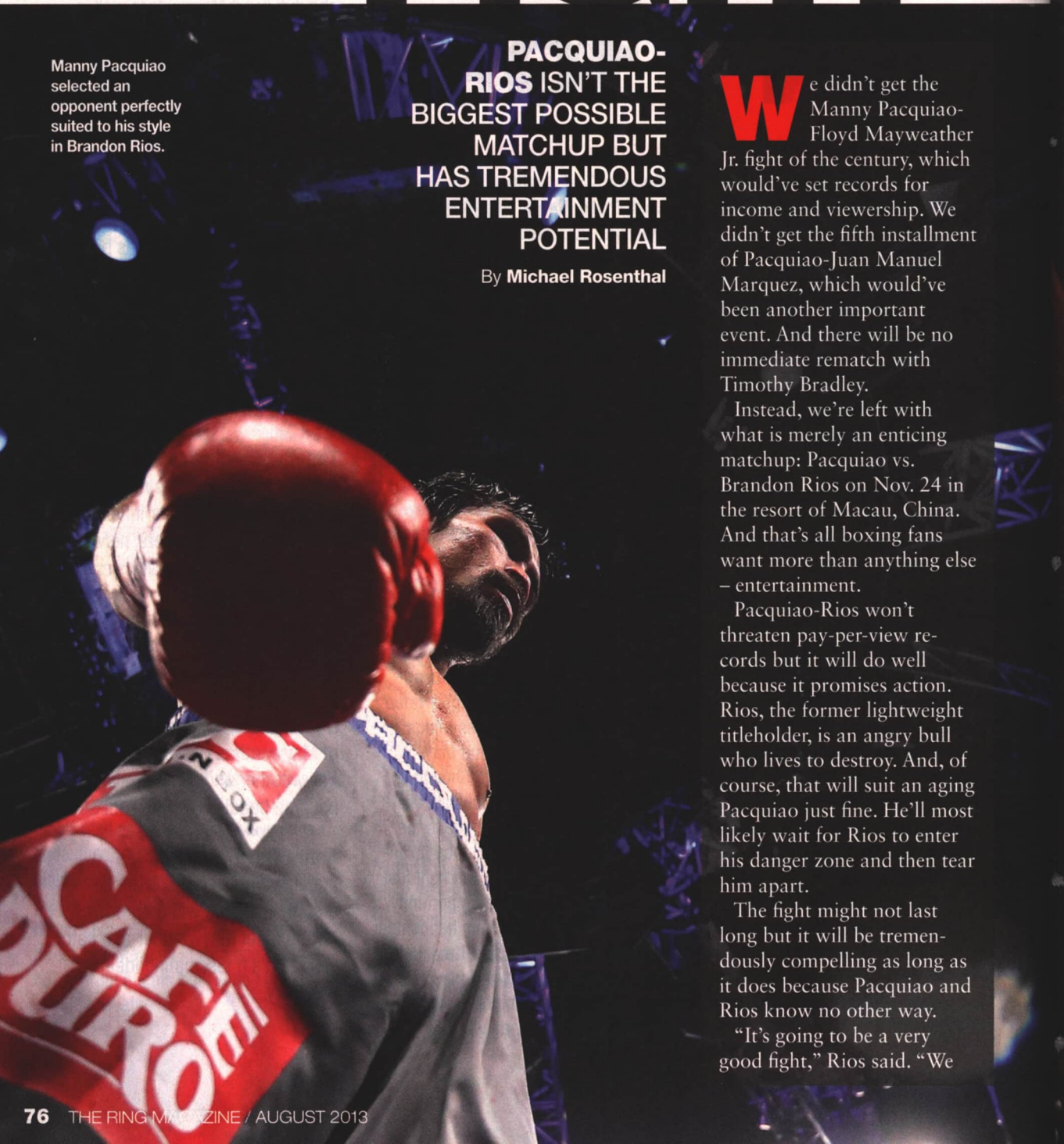
Juan Manuel Marquez:
It might be hard to sell Mayweather-Marquez II, but Marquez has been on a roll. If he beats Tim Bradley in their upcoming bout, he might be recycled as an opponent. He could always say he was uncomfortable at 147 when he first fought Mayweather, and has since grown into the weight.

Timothy Bradley:
Bradley would be in the running for a bout with Mayweather if he beats Marquez. Rival promoters, networks and the usual boxing politics could prevent it, though.

Adrien Broner:
This is an interesting one, with Broner at times resembling a younger, stronger version of Mayweather. But now that Mayweather and Broner have become buddies, we may not see it.

Andre Ward: The super middleweight champion is on record saying he will drop down to 160 to meet Mayweather at a catch weight. It's a fascinating idea, but not likely.

'ONE HELLUVA FIGHT'



Manny Pacquiao selected an opponent perfectly suited to his style in Brandon Rios.

PACQUIAO-RIOS ISN'T THE BIGGEST POSSIBLE MATCHUP BUT HAS TREMENDOUS ENTERTAINMENT POTENTIAL

By **Michael Rosenthal**

We didn't get the Manny Pacquiao-Floyd Mayweather Jr. fight of the century, which would've set records for income and viewership. We didn't get the fifth installment of Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez, which would've been another important event. And there will be no immediate rematch with Timothy Bradley.

Instead, we're left with what is merely an enticing matchup: Pacquiao vs. Brandon Rios on Nov. 24 in the resort of Macau, China. And that's all boxing fans want more than anything else – entertainment.

Pacquiao-Rios won't threaten pay-per-view records but it will do well because it promises action. Rios, the former lightweight titleholder, is an angry bull who lives to destroy. And, of course, that will suit an aging Pacquiao just fine. He'll most likely wait for Rios to enter his danger zone and then tear him apart.

The fight might not last long but it will be tremendously compelling as long as it does because Pacquiao and Rios know no other way.

"It's going to be a very good fight," Rios said. "We

Rios might not be a serious threat to Pacquiao but he should make things interesting.

PACQUIAO: Al Bello/Getty Images; RIOS: Naoki Fukuda

both like to fight. We both hardly back down. We both throw a lot of punches in bunches. So it's going to be one helluva good fight."

Why Rios? Pacquiao reportedly pursued Bradley and Marquez, who handed him consecutive losses for the first time in his career – Bradley by a disputed decision in June of last year and Marquez by one monumental punch in December. Alas, they ended up signing a deal to fight one another instead of Pacquiao.

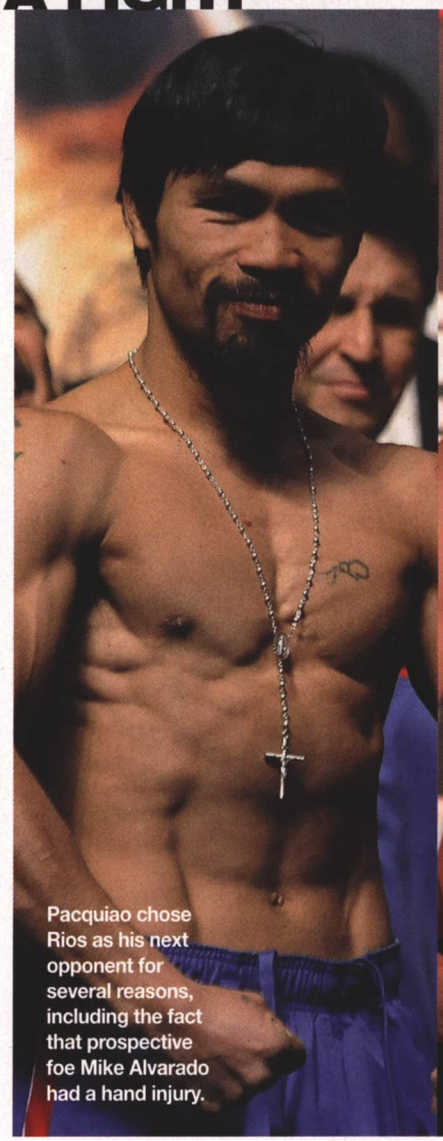
Another possibility was Mike Alvarado, who became a major player by outpointing Rios in their March rematch. However, promoter Bob Arum, who handles all of the fighters mentioned above except Mayweather, reportedly said a hand injury removed Alvarado from the running.

Just as likely, Pacquiao and Co. simply believe Rios' style is better suited to Pacquiao than that of Alvarado, who is the superior pure boxer of the two. To be clear: Pacquiao must win and look good doing it if he is to remain near the apex of the sport. Rios' style and limitations will help Pacquiao realize his goal.

Plus, Rios makes sense from a business standpoint. He is not a superstar but a series of blood-and-guts victories over the past few years and a fearsome persona have earned him many fans, certainly more than Alvarado. It will be easier to sell Pacquiao-Rios than Pacquiao-Alvarado

"Rios is a good fighter who fights well in the pocket, but he's more hittable," said Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's longtime trainer. "I want to see Manny with a good performance. I think he can knock this guy out, and this guy is one of the new generation of fighters coming up.

"It's a fight that if he wins it, would keep Manny in the pound-for-pound Top 10."



Pacquiao chose Rios as his next opponent for several reasons, including the fact that prospective foe Mike Alvarado had a hand injury.

The site of the fight – the Venetian Macao Resort Hotel in the former Portuguese colony – also is of particular intrigue.

Arum staged the pro debut of Chinese amateur star Zou Shiming there in April, the first step in what he hopes will become a successful venture in Asia. The fight between Pacquiao, a Filipino icon, and Rios is sure to add to the momentum.

And Pacquiao, apparently tired of paying high taxes in the U.S., relishes the opportunity to keep more of the money he earns. He stood to lose 39.6 percent of his purse if he fought in Las Vegas, which reflects the new U.S. tax rate. He'll give up only 12 percent in Macau.

Let's say Pacquiao earns $30 million before taxes. In Las Vegas, he would walk away with about $18.1 million. In Macau, that figure would be $26.4 million, or a difference of $8.3 million. That's a lot of cash even by the ridiculous standards of Pacquiao, who doesn't have many more fights in him.

Of course, neither the site nor the earnings mean much to most fans. Those in the U.S. will tune in to the pay-per-view telecast in prime time, as the fight will take place during the day in Macau to accommodate American television.

And they'll very likely get what they paid for – a great fight. RING

PACQUIAO: JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/Getty Images; RIOS: Photo by Harry How/Getty Images

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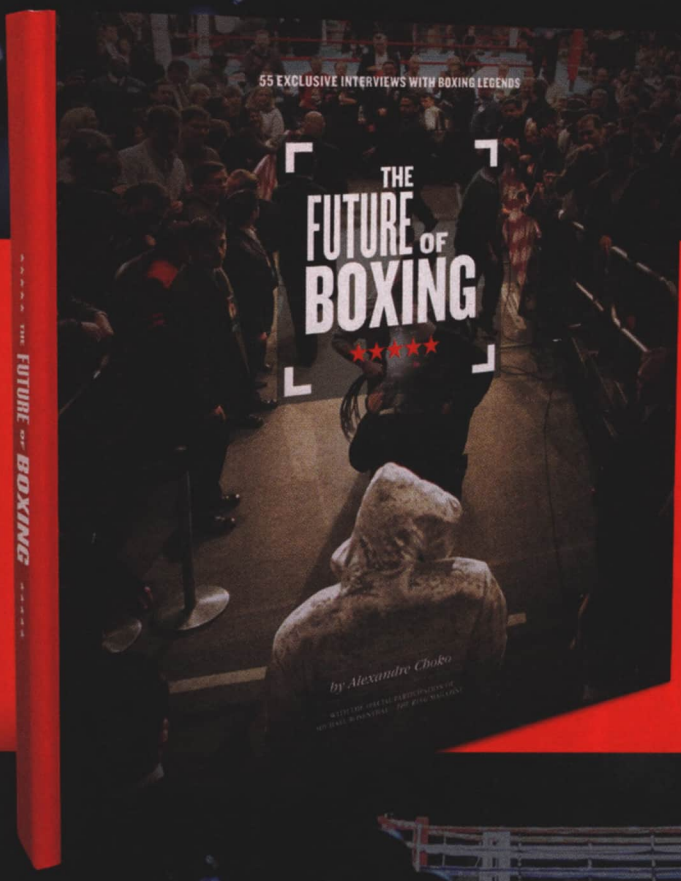

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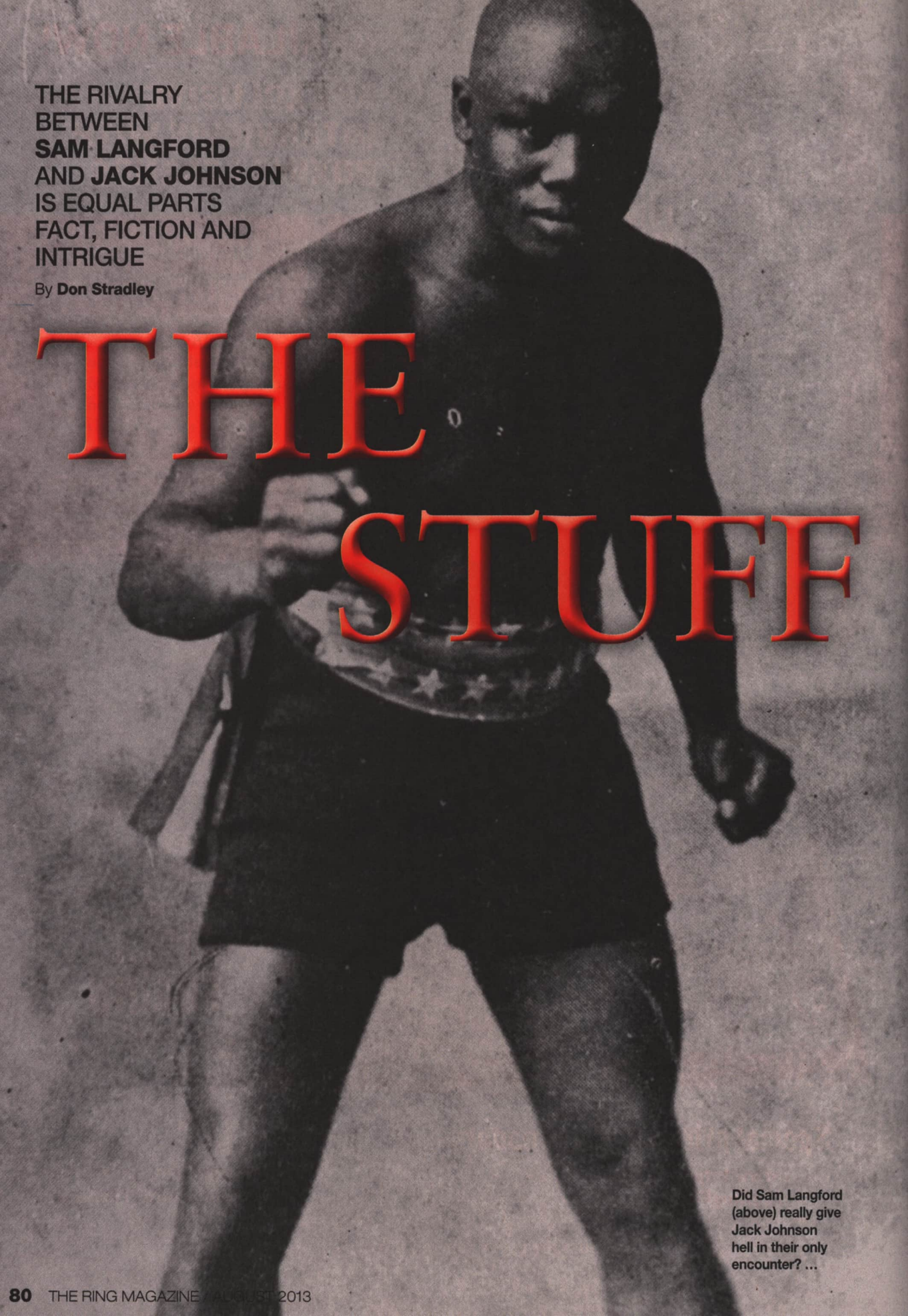
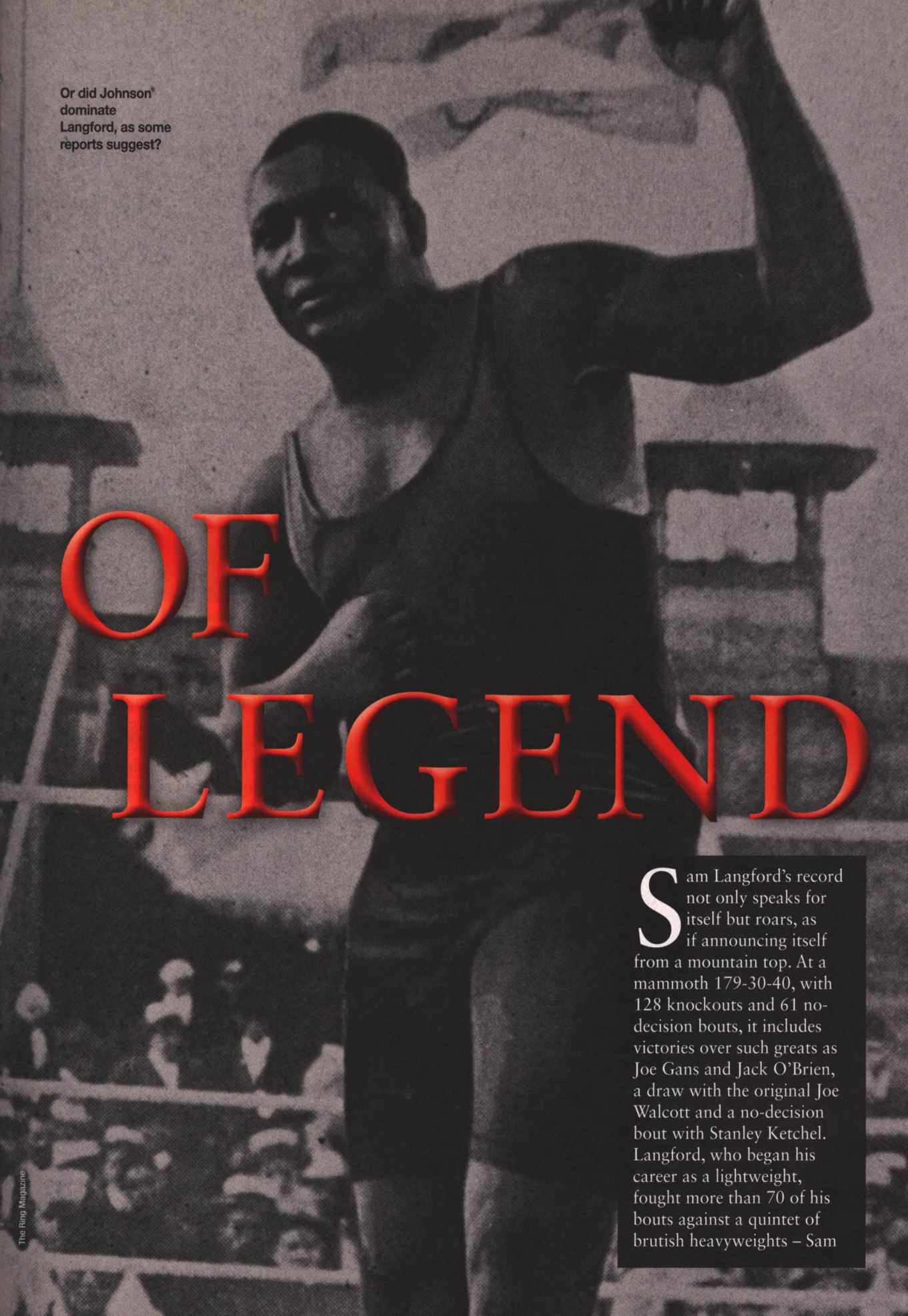
THE RIVALRY BETWEEN **SAM LANGFORD** AND **JACK JOHNSON** IS EQUAL PARTS FACT, FICTION AND INTRIGUE

By **Don Stradley**

THE STUFF



Did Sam Langford (above) really give Jack Johnson hell in their only encounter? ...



Or did Johnson dominate Langford, as some reports suggest?

OF LEGEND

Sam Langford's record not only speaks for itself but roars, as if announcing itself from a mountain top. At a mammoth 179-30-40, with 128 knockouts and 61 no-decision bouts, it includes victories over such greats as Joe Gans and Jack O'Brien, a draw with the original Joe Walcott and a no-decision bout with Stanley Ketchel. Langford, who began his career as a lightweight, fought more than 70 of his bouts against a quintet of brutish heavyweights – Sam

The Ring Magazine

McVey, Joe Jeanette, Harry Wills, Jim Barry and Jeff Clarke – winning far more than he lost. During the slushy winter of his career, at age 39 with failing vision, Langford scored a two-round KO of future middleweight champion Tiger Flowers.

Yet, perhaps as much as any of his victories, a loss to Jack Johnson in April 1906 helped create Langford's legacy. The story goes that Johnson beat Langford over 15 rounds in Chelsea, Mass., but Langford had given Johnson such a hard time that Johnson refused to entertain thoughts of a rematch. When Johnson won the heavyweight championship in December of 1907, Langford began a desperate pursuit of Johnson that took him around the globe like Ahab chasing Moby Dick. According to the lore, Johnson let Langford rot on the vine.

But did Johnson really avoid Langford? Langford is from the same hazy neighborhood as Babe Ruth and Jesse James, a foggy realm where fact and fiction often collide. Undoing the knots in his story has left more than one biographer dizzy. The Johnson saga is a perfect example.

The idea that Johnson ducked Langford certainly fits into the design of Langford's life. Langford ended up blind, broke and forgotten until sportswriter Al Laney discovered him living alone in a Harlem rooming house. Thanks to Laney's concern and the donations of fans, Langford lived his final years in relative comfort. Still, Johnson's rebuff was the engine that drove the Langford legend. Poor old Sam was proof that even the best fighters could be victims in the dark, corrupt world of boxing.

There is a hiccup in the story, though. According to the few existing ringside reports of the 1906 bout, Johnson gave Langford a hiding comparable to the one given to the Germans at Stalingrad. "It was a one-sided fight," reported the *Boston Morning Journal*. *The Boston Post* concurred that Johnson had been dominant but noted Langford's courage: "It was a wonder that he could stand the beating that Johnson handed him." Such comments are harmful to the longstanding myth that Langford had been robbed in Chelsea, a myth that still breathes heavily on the necks of historians.

The Johnson-Langford bout took place at the Lincoln Athletic Club, a rickety fire trap that held approximately 2,000 and would go up in flames two years later. Johnson had arrived in nearby Boston claiming he would take on two opponents in one night. Langford answered the call alone. Enjoying advantages in height and weight, Johnson was simply too much for Langford. The smaller man went to the canvas twice in the sixth round and, according to various sources, referee John J. Flaherty gave Langford a deliberately slow count. Flaherty may have been favoring the local fighter or he may have been thinking of the smart money that had been placed on Langford lasting at least 10 rounds. Strangely, a report from the *Kennebec Maine Daily* Journal added that Langford rose from the second knockdown and battled back ferociously until Johnson "was in as bad a way as Langford."

The notion of such a round is mind-boggling. Langford goes down twice and then has Johnson going at the bell? And why such an explosive round would be mentioned in a Maine paper but not the Boston papers is one of the many mysteries surrounding the bout.

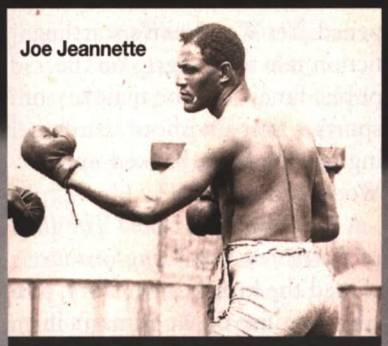
The most vivid description of the fight was written many years after the fact by Boston journalist Doc Almy. Writing for *The Veteran Boxer* in 1947, Almy described a dramatic battle but his account reads as if it was embellished. By the time Almy wrote his piece, his memory may have been faulty, if he had even been at Chelsea at all. Writers like Almy may also have been swept away by the growing tide of Langford nostalgia that had begun with Laney's article. "We have let sentiment sway us," promoter Joe Waterman once grumbled to The Associated Press. "The myth of Langford's greatness has grown with the years. It isn't true." But Waterman was in the minority. The goodwill around Langford grew, and the Johnson-Langford bout was ripe for mythmaking.

Even Johnson had done his share to glorify the 1906 match. In *Mes Combats*, a French autobiography published during his championship reign, Johnson offered the surprising revelation that Langford had knocked him down. "It was all I could do," wrote Johnson, "just to get back on my feet just as the referee was about to count 'Ten!'" This was a shocker, for Johnson had said at other times that he'd had an easy time with Langford and held back under the advisement of the arena's management. Stranger still, Johnson barely mentioned Langford in his 1927 American memoir, *In The Ring And Out*. Clay Moyle, author of Sam *Langford: Boxing's Greatest Uncrowned Champion*, can't explain why Johnson recalled a knockdown that hadn't been reported.

"I don't know why Johnson would say that if it didn't happen," Moyle said. "But, if it actually happened, you'd think that one of the Boston newspapers would have

LEGENDARY RIVALRIES

The top black fighters of the early 20th century often fought one another repeatedly for lack of opportunities against top white fighters because of their skin color. Sam Langford was in the thick of these rivalries. Here is a look at how he and Jack Johnson did against other elite black fighters, each of whom is in the International Boxing Hall of Fame.



LANGFORD (179-30-40)
Vs. Sam McVea: 7-2-6
Vs. Harry Wills: 2-13-2
Vs. Joe Jeannette: 8-3-4

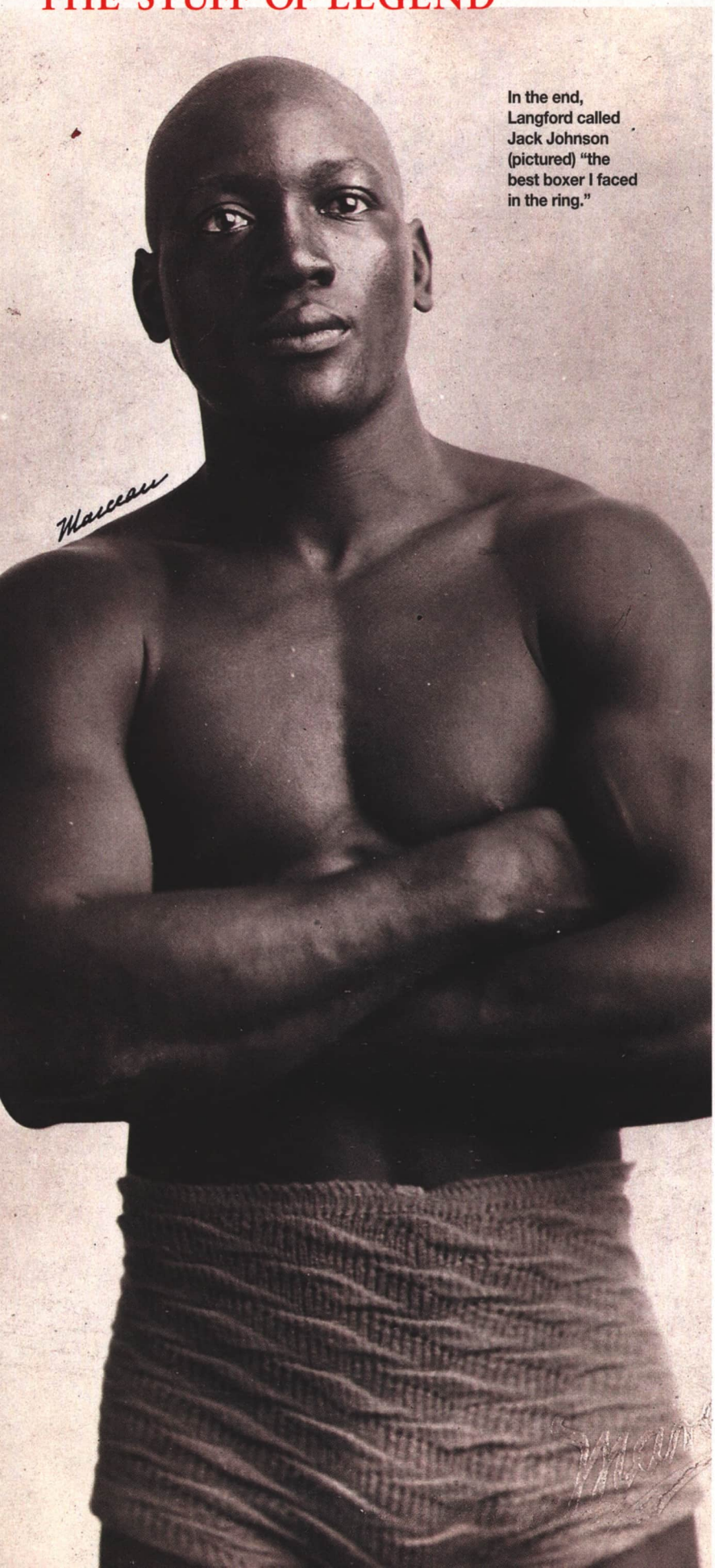
JOHNSON (54-11-9)
Vs. Sam McVea: 3-0-0
Vs. Joe Jeannette: 5-1-1

Note: Johnson outpointed Langford in their only meeting and never fought Wills. The Galveston Giant refused to face his main black rivals once he beat Tommy Burns to win the heavyweight title in 1908.

Source: boxrec.com

Johnson called Langford (pictured) "the toughest little son of a bitch that ever lived."

The Ring Magazine



In the end, Langford called Jack Johnson (pictured) "the best boxer I faced in the ring."

mentioned it. Yet, I have articles from at least five different Boston newspapers concerning the fight and not one mentions Sam knocking Johnson down."

THE RING founder Nat Fleischer, whose father in law had been at the Chelsea bout, threw a different light on this alleged knockdown. Fleischer wrote in *Black Dynamite* that Langford's manager Joe Woodman intended to arrange a rematch for Langford and started a "ballyhoo campaign," sending piles of copy to the newspapers stating that Langford had been robbed of the decision in Chelsea. "Woodman even went so far as to assert that Johnson had been dropped for a count of nine," wrote Fleischer, "all of which was purely the bunk, for no such thing ever happened. Yet Woodman's startling fiction tale took a grip on the public fancy and the majority of sports writers, without searching out the facts, backed up the Woodman dope."

A 1909 booklet called *The Life & Battles of Sam Langford* included the knockdown story, possibly because of Woodman's influence. But why would Johnson mention it in a French memoir?

"Bottom line," Moyle said, "I don't believe there is any definitive proof that Johnson was in fact knocked down by Sam, but there remains some question about that to this day."

A rarely mentioned detail in the Johnson-Langford story is that shortly after their bout in Chelsea, they fought an exhibition in a Boston theater to raise money for survivors of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Langford would describe it as "the wildest nine minutes of fighting I ever was mixed up in during 23 years of war."

"There wasn't any ring on the

stage of that theatre," Langford told the *Halifax Herald* in 1924.

"It was just a stage, no ropes, no nothing. We battled from one side of it to the other, back to the curtains, forward to the footlights, fighting like two tigers. I was out to knock Johnson cold, if I could, and he was trying to finish me. We punched, wrestled, mauled, hauled and did everything but knock down the building.

"Before the first round was over we had upset the water buckets and our chairs, knocked over the referee and timekeeper, broken about ten electric bulbs in the footlights and twice, in the cyclonic stuff we were doing, almost fell into the orchestra pit."

It's a good story, but it's hard to imagine a ring technician like Johnson involved in such a crazy brawl. Still, such tales inspire those who feel Johnson avoided Langford during his title reign.

"My personal belief is, yes," Moyle told THE RING. "He felt Langford was an extremely dangerous man to fight and there was just as much money to be made fighting men who were less dangerous. And Sam was clearly the No. 1 contender for at least a couple of years during Johnson's title reign."

After his historic 1910 win over James J. Jeffries in Reno, Nev., Johnson said he would meet Langford provided Langford agreed to a side bet of $20,000. The two bantered in print, and there was even an impromptu summit at Boston's Armory Athletic Association, when both happened to be on hand for a bout between Jimmy Walsh and Young Britt. Demonstrating their flair for the dramatic, Johnson and Langford stepped into the ring and glared at each other, Johnson waving a wad of bills in the air. On another night, Langford spotted Johnson in a Baltimore nightclub and threatened to beat him right there.

The accepted reason for the rematch never happening is that Johnson didn't want to lose the championship to another black fighter. Johnson once told the press that he wouldn't fight Langford because he was "drawing my own color line," as many white fighters had done. There was also a rumor that the friction between Johnson and Langford stemmed from their having once been involved with the same woman. Gunboat Smith, who fought Langford twice and once served as Johnson's sparring partner, told author Peter Heller in 1970 that the rivalry was uglier than the public knew.

"They hated one another like rat poison," Smith said, describing an incident in 1910 in which Johnson sped past Langford in his car, his wheels churning mud into Langford's face. "If Sam Langford had a gun, he'd have killed him right there."

Various promoters attempted to make the rematch during the next few years, with London, Paris and Sydney mentioned as possible locations. Johnson reportedly signed papers on more than one occasion to meet Langford, but he told *The Los Angeles Times* in 1914, there'd be "no glory in defeating Langford for I have already done the trick." Meanwhile, Langford hurt his own cause by fighting so frequently. Fighting 10 to 12 times per year meant Langford occasionally lost; Johnson held these losses against him.

In December 1913, after French officials had tired of Johnson's inactivity and stripped him of his status, Langford beat old rival Joe Jeanette over 20 rounds for the world heavyweight title as recognized in France. It was small consolation.

"Jack just didn't want to associate with me anymore," Langford said in one article. "I coaxed that boy and I begged that boy and I said nasty, nasty things to him, but he just wouldn't mess around with me."

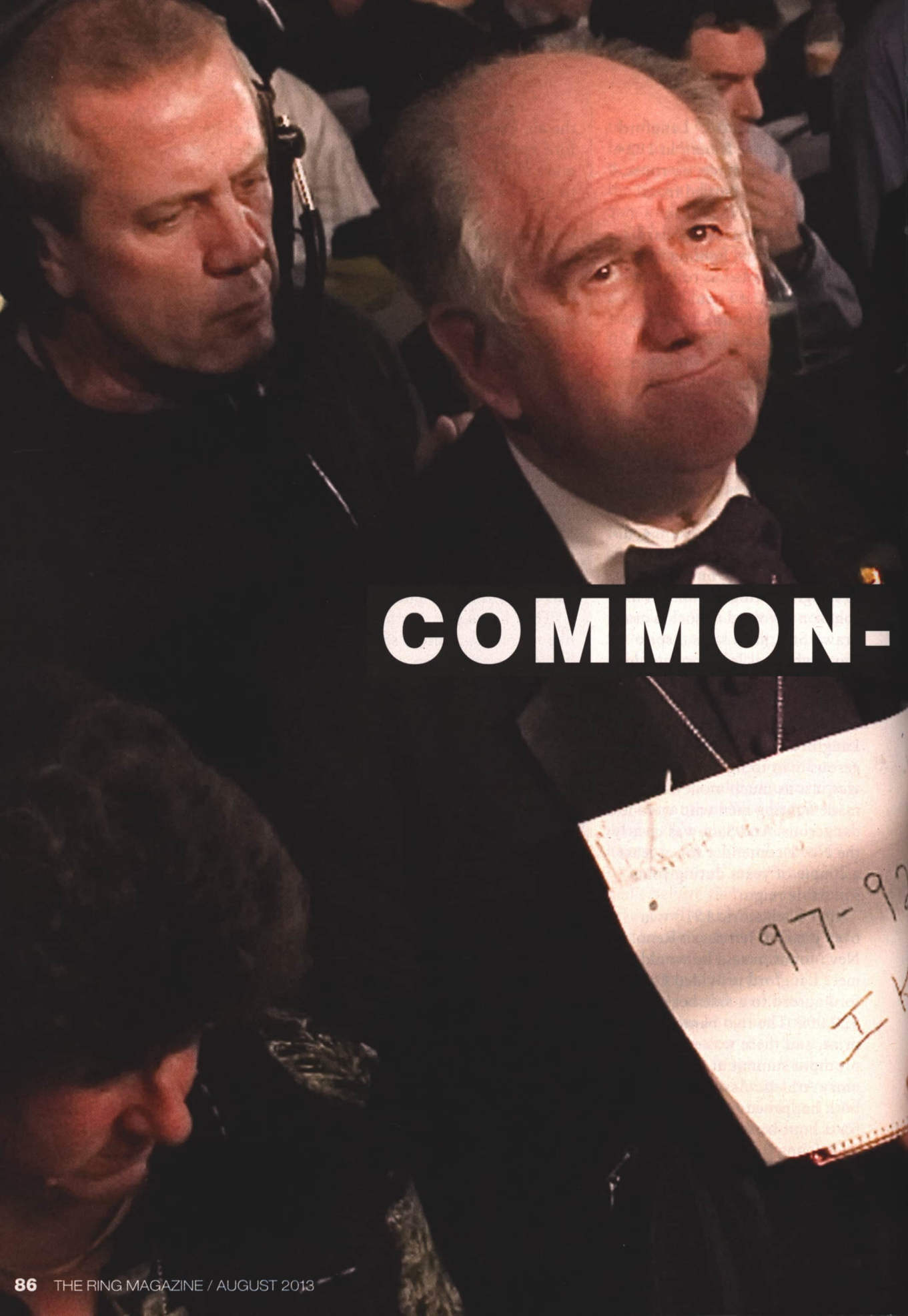
What would have happened had Johnson fought Langford a second time? After 1910, Johnson was in physical decline. Langford, too, was putting on weight, but Johnson's dissipation was greater. Langford might've won. It is fun to imagine Langford as the heavyweight champion; he was colorful, he was a puncher, and the press was fond of him. Perhaps, if he'd won the title, Langford would've fought less often and spared himself getting punched into blindness. All we can be certain of is that Johnson and Langford, despite the bad blood between them, admired each other.

"I learned many boxing tricks fighting with Johnson," Langford said. "Jack Johnson was the best boxer I faced in the ring."

In a 1929 story, Johnson praised Langford. "I can still hear the wind whistling as his right hand passed by my face," Johnson told the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*. "He had the greatest right cross the ring ever saw, past or present, and when he laid it in, the party was all over." Johnson was more succinct years later when he met New England Sports Museum trustee Kevin Aylwood in a Boston nightclub. "Sam Langford," Johnson allegedly told Aylwood, "was the toughest little son of a bitch that ever lived."

From such quotes are legends made.

The Ring Magazine


COMMON-

JUDGES SHOULDN'T FEEL BOUND TO SCORE ROUNDS 10-9 IF EVENTS IN THE RING DICTATE OTHERWISE

By **Thomas Hauser**

SENSE SCORING

Ed Mulholland/Wireimage

Former judge and HBO commentator Harold Lederman believes judges have a duty to score rounds 10-10 if they are truly even.

A lot of people think that a judge shouldn't score a round even. Their view is that, no matter how close a round might be, there's always a basis on which to choose between the fighters. These same people often say with a straight face that, if a judge scores an extremely close round in favor of one fighter, he can always even things out by scoring the next extremely close round in favor of the other guy.

Why not score rounds accurately?

There's nothing inherently evil about the concept of "even" in sports. Baseball teams score the same number of runs in an inning. Football and basketball teams score the same number of points in a quarter. Golfers often take the same number of strokes on a given hole.

COMMON-SENSE SCORING

A fight can be scored a draw. So why shouldn't an individual round be scored even?

This doesn't mean that a judge should go overboard. Angelo Poletti, in an act of monumental indecision, scored 10 even rounds in the first fight between Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran en route to a 148-147 scorecard in Duran's favor.

But a judge's scorecard is supposed to accurately reflect that judge's view of the fight. It undermines the integrity of the scoring system if a judge who is uncertain as to who won a particular round makes a decision based on a mental coin flip.

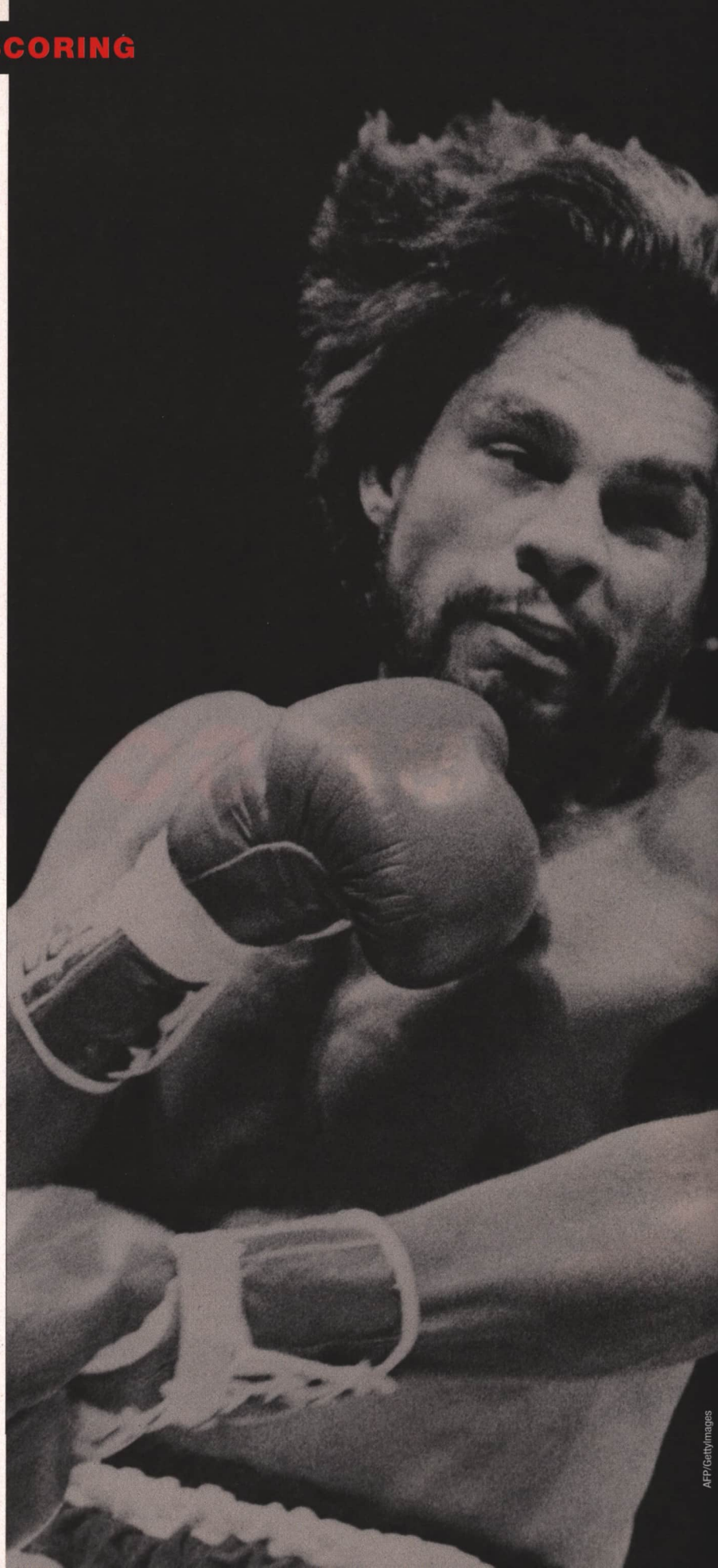
Every round in boxing starts out even. The generally-used criteria for scoring each round are 1. clean punching; 2. effective aggression; 3. ring generalship, and 4. defense.

"In the current climate," said commentator Larry Merchant, "judges are pressured to identify a winner of each round. But once you get past the issue of who's dictating the terms and landing the most punches and doing the most damage, there are rounds that neither fighter deserves to win or lose. If I can't decide who won a round, I'm not going to make it up. I'll call the round even."

HBO's "unofficial ringside judge" Harold Lederman is in accord.

"Judges are paid to make hard decisions on close rounds," Lederman said. "But some rounds are dead even. If a judge is really undecided and can't pick the winner of a round, he should call it even. Anything else is unfair to the fans and unfair to the fighter that he decides against."

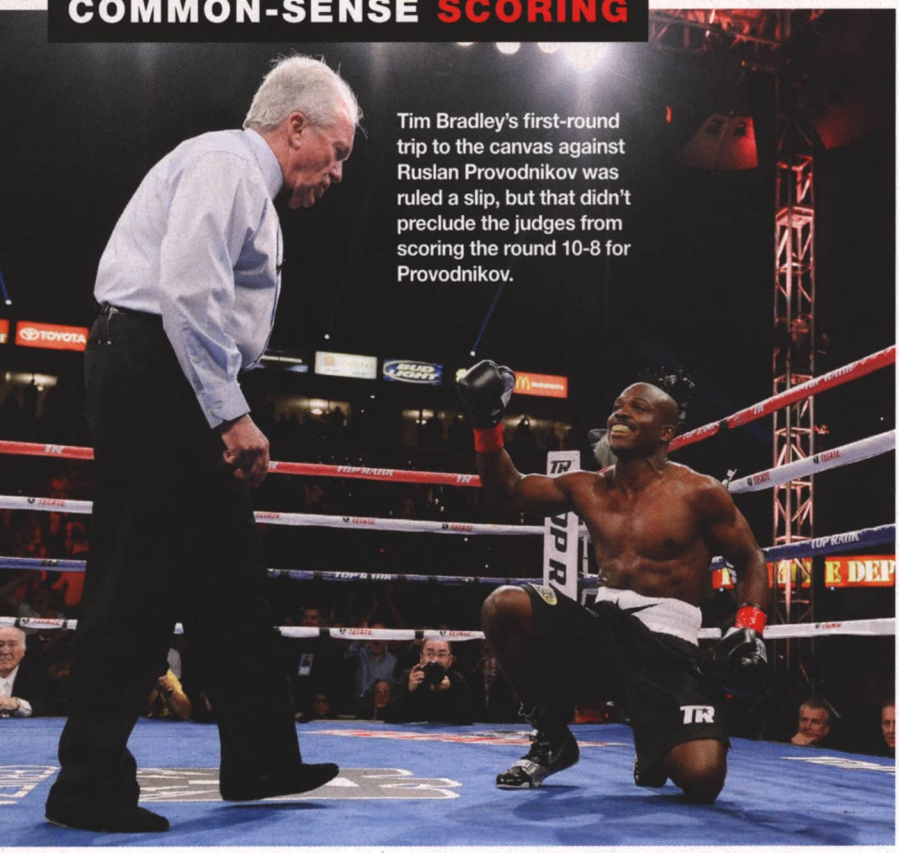
Making an arbitrary decision as to who won a round that's too close to call has the same effect as deducting a point for a



AFP/Getty Images

Judge Angelo Poletti brought indecision to an epic level in the first Sugar Ray Leonard-Roberto Duran fight, scoring 10 rounds even.

COMMON-SENSE SCORING



Tim Bradley's first-round trip to the canvas against Ruslan Provodnikov was ruled a slip, but that didn't preclude the judges from scoring the round 10-8 for Provodnikov.

foul; only in this case, the judge is penalizing a fighter for no good reason.

Another issue: Just because there hasn't been a knockdown doesn't mean that a round shouldn't be scored 10-8.

A fighter can win a round in a manner that's characterized as 1. close; 2. decisive, or 3. dominating.

"You don't need a knockdown for a 10-8 round," said Showtime boxing analyst Steve Farhood. "Suppose Fighter A edges Fighter B by three jabs to one. It's a 10-9 round. Now suppose Fighter A kicks Fighter B's butt all over the place but doesn't knock him down. Most judges will also score that a 10-9 round, which tells you right there that the 10-point-must scoring system is flawed in the way it's implemented. When one fighter clearly dominates another and hurts the other guy, even if there hasn't been a knockdown, that round should be scored 10-8."

"A judge doesn't need the referee to call a knockdown to score a round 10-8," added Nevada's dean of boxing judges, Duane Ford. "When Tim Bradley fought Ruslan Provodnikov, the TV people made a big thing about how, in their view, the referee missed a knockdown and that cost Provodnikov a point. But each judge had the option of scoring that round 10-8 based on the overall action in the round if he thought that a 10-8 score was warranted. If one of the fighters is scoring effectively with power punches, hurting his opponent, and dominating the round, I'm fine with 10-8."

Or phrased differently: If a hair's breadth difference equates to a 10-9 round, shouldn't a dominating round be worth more?

That leads to a third issue: The notion that a fighter is automatically entitled to a 10-8 round simply because he knocked his opponent down is flawed.

Knockdowns are an important part of boxing and should be weighed heavily in scoring a fight. One of the main objectives in the sport is to knock an opponent off his feet.

But just because a fighter scores a knockdown doesn't mean that he's entitled to a swing of three points (from 9-10 to 10-8). If Fighter A dominates a round and is felled by a flash knockdown, shouldn't that be a 10-9 round in favor of the fighter who scored the knockdown? Or maybe even 10-10?

Here the thoughts of Greg Sirb, executive director of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission and former president of the Association of Boxing Commissions, are instructive.

"You have to score the whole round," Sirb said. "Common sense has to come into play. You can't automatically throw away 2 minutes, 55 seconds of good work because a knockdown occurred. If I'm dominating a round and you score a flash knockdown, how can anyone fairly say that you're entitled to a 10-8 round? Do you really think that the judges should totally disregard the other 2 minutes, 55 seconds?"

Showtime Boxing analyst Al Bernstein agrees and suggests, "Let's assess intelligently how much damage is being done. Let's distinguish between knockdowns that do serious damage and knockdowns where a fighter's glove barely touches the canvas or the fighter goes down and bounces back up. Let's also ask whether a knockdown was the result of a solid punch or a fighter going down because he was hit when he was off balance."

Too many judges are scared to turn in a scorecard that looks different from those of the other judges and members of the media. But it's foolish to have a 10-point-must scoring system and put arbitrary limits on the judges' options. RING

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Miranda Carter decided at 52 that it was time to become a boxing promoter.

FOR THE LOVE OF BOXING

BRITISH CIVIL SERVANT **MIRANDA CARTER** FOLLOWS IN A SELECT LINE OF PASSIONATE FEMALE PROMOTERS

By **Gareth A Davies**

Miranda Carter is a high-flying civil servant in the British home service by day, a small-hall boxing promoter by night. Six years ago, having felt a burning desire for years to follow a mission inside her, she embarked on becoming a promoter. She was 52.

"My husband will remind me it was in June round about six years ago. It was a summer's morning. I said 'that's it, I'm going to become a boxing promoter.' Nine months later I was ringside at my first show."

"There I was sitting front row at York Hall with my husband sitting behind me in a state of shock," explained Carter, a small, elegant lady.

"The process was twofold," she said. "There was a lot of 'company' stuff I had to do, but mostly I started investigating boxing, going to lots of small-hall shows."

So off she went. "I saw the British middleweight Darren Barker box, I went to Frank Maloney shows. Then I began the process of trying to talk to the Boxing Board about what I needed to do to."

When she finally spoke to Robert Smith, at the time the head of the southern area Board and the Deputy Secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, she had a list of questions the length of her arm about what she needed to do about the medical side of it, management, conditions, processes.

Her growing knowledge of how the sport was run, and what was required, was to be tested to the full. She saw a load more shows, then went for her license in front of a panel from the Boxing Board.

"The interview with the Board was weird," she said. "Robert Smith was deputy secretary of the Boxing Board. I walked into the interview with a group of hatchet-faced men peering at me. But after a thorough line in questioning, they gave me the license."

They asked Carter why she was not just going into putting on amateur shows; she wanted to be a professional promoter, she countered.

"I think they were suspicious of me. They're very, very risk … averse. They like things to happen how it's always happened," she mused. "To be perfectly honest, I think the issue was more about me being middle-class than female. A combination of the two wasn't great from their point of view."

"But to be fair to them, they did give me the license. There was also the sense that they want to test you. Promoting isn't easy. And you do need to be quite resilient in boxing." She found she had that quality in droves.

What dawned on her was that the panel in front of her just needed persuading that she was for real. "Actually, they were

testing my understanding of the rulebook. You have to know it backwards. I can remember one horrendous night before my son's final school exam. I was testing him on Charles V of France, and he was testing me on the Board of Control rulebook."

She was off and running. Yet, in reality, Carter's inception as a female promoter on the British boxing scene was not new. Catherine Morrison, the daughter of long-serving Scottish promoter Alex Morrison, was a licensed promoter from 1992 until her permit lapsed in 2011, according to the Boxing Board's records. In 2011, Olivia Goodwin, the daughter of Steve Goodwin, a small-hall promoter in England, gained her license. She was 20 years old, but had been working on his shows through her teenage years.

But these women might look to the example of Aileen Eaton, the most famous woman promoter of them all.

Eaton was a formidable character – loved, hated and feared in equal measure. She staged fights for 50 years at the Los Angeles Olympic Auditorium and she promoted the superstars of her era. Sugar Ray Robinson, Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, Floyd Patterson, Joe Frazier and Ken Norton were all among the men who came under her regime. Today, Rebecca Margel in Leeds and Jane Wilton, in Belfast, Northern Ireland, have had dinner boxing shows in the past few years. Yet even further back, the wives of boxing managers were often licensed as promoters, because the men were not allowed to play both roles under the rules. In the '50s, Tommy Conroy and his wife ran shows. Tommy managed, and his better half, Annette, had the promoter's license. The setup of husband-and-wife teams

Carter poses with Matt McCarthy, one of her young fighters.

was not unusual.

One of the most renowned husband-and-wife pairings in the U.S. was Don Chargin and his wife, Lorraine, while Main Events is under the charge of Kathy Duva, the late Dan Duva's wife from the family dynasty long involved in the sweet science.

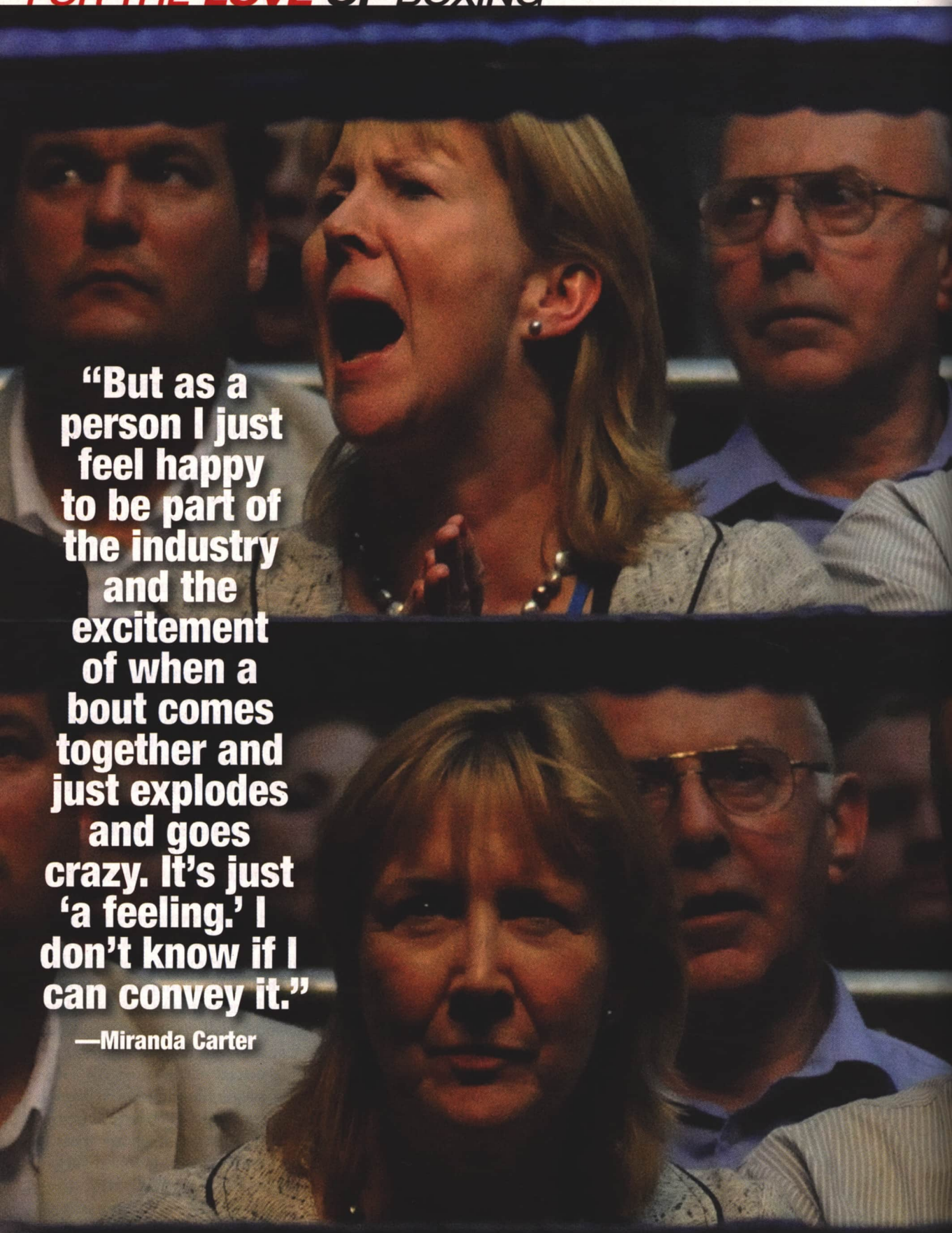
"I suppose it's baffling to everyone really, that I just woke up one morning with a conviction that I could be a boxing promoter. But it had been there a long time," Carter said. "It was really my father. He'd always boxed as a young man and boxed in the Navy, so I've always thought boxing for a man was a really good thing to do. A really good, exciting sport."

The drama of boxing had always captured Carter, who attended a private girls' school in Dulwich, a swanky area in South London, before going up to Oxford University to study politics, philosophy and economics.

"I was very passionate about politics so I spent about 10 years working for the Trade Union movement, firstly as a negotiator of the shop floor and then as a general treasurer of the Trade Union. It was a very complex time politically in the early '80s. Boxing is like politics."

"I don't know whether boxing's in my blood, or my DNA, but I just seemed to slot it in like nothing else. Perhaps the work in politics prepared me for it. But nothing really surprised me about it and I do feel like a fish going into water."

Music and boxing also equate in Carter's mind. "I go to the Opera, but I like open-air opera in London, like in Holland Park because it's very small, very intimate. I like the closeness to the action." Small-hall boxing shows, she reckons, have the same tight, old school feel.



"But as a person I just feel happy to be part of the industry and the excitement of when a bout comes together and just explodes and goes crazy. It's just 'a feeling.' I don't know if I can convey it."

—Miranda Carter

Carter brings intensity to ringside.

"The opera and boxing are actually quite similar. When David Haye fought Enzo Maccarinelli a few years back, and David jumped into the ring, and knocked Enzo out, it was like an aria. You've got the musicians, and the notes, and the tune leads you to an ending that you're anticipating." The music is an interesting comparison: In the drawing room of Carter's Edwardian home in north London are a piano and a harp.

Carter's matchmaker is the veteran, vastly experienced Jim Evans. Carter describes him as "unbelievably wonderful."

Carter has now put on just over twenty shows, roughly four each year. What she has her eye on next represents the Holy Grail for promoters: "I'd love to secure some kind of TV deal," she said. "We put some of the good fights up on YouTube and so forth, and some of them really get good viewing figures. But then if you go on television, you have to be prepared and able to put on a regular number of shows, and I'm running four shows a year at the moment, which is enough given that I also have a full-time occupation."

Her current day job, doing the consultation work on developing a high-speed train line to run between London, Leeds and Manchester, is complex, high-pressure work. But so, too, is the promoting.

"I must've had several hundred boxers on my shows now, which are generally never set up for less than 32 rounds of boxing. I have lots of youngsters coming through."

"But I'm tough as a promoter. I tell them the deal, and if they're not going to sell any tickets, they probably won't be on my show – unless we can do this, this or this. The books must balance."

"It's 45 [British pounds; a little under $70] for ringside seats, 65 for front row, and 35 everywhere else. I need to do that to make it work. It's expensive to have the York Hall, with the security and ambulance, the doctors from the Boxing Board, and so on."

Looking back, she now feels there were years wasted. "I wish I'd started doing this 20 or 30 years ago, oh yeah." Would she have been a rival to Frank Warren? "I would have liked to have bloody well boxed," she said. "But I suppose that wouldn't have happened 20 or 30 years ago. If I'd have started early, I would have had a lot more knowledge and understanding. It was a very steep learning curve at the beginning. I don't know if it is anymore."

One of the fighters who featured on her bills, Ashley Theophane, became British junior welterweight champion. "Ashley was on our first show and ever since then we have collaborated. It's difficult to get the quality of opponents on my show that he needs, but I've got him out there and got the experience he needed. Then he went to the States and got really good. I don't know what they did with him in the States, but he came back very good."

Carter is suddenly off talking, again, of her love of boxers. "My favorite was Steve Collins because he was absolutely unstoppable in some ways. I spoke to Ojay Abraham, one of the boxers on one of my first nights at ringside, and he said if you hit Steve Collins it was like hitting granite. I liked those really rugged, stands-their-ground, showy fighters. I'm still a big fan of Chris Eubank; I think he's extraordinary as a person."

"But overall, what people don't realize outside boxing is that it makes you think differently about life, that it keeps you on your toes, that you meet people you really, really respect and I really respect some of the boxers and some of the trainers, some of the managers and promoters."

"But as a person I just feel happy to be part of the industry and the excitement of when a bout comes together and just explodes and goes crazy. It's just 'a feeling.' I don't know if I can convey it."

Carter officiated at the David Haye-Dereck Chisora fight last year, as one of the ringside supervisors. "I saw the scale of that stadium show, and I've always respected Frank Warren because he's like the Colossus in British boxing. But being close to the fight, and seeing how the promotion was put on, was so impressive."

Of Warren himself, Carter said, "I've only met him on a couple of occasions. He was completely charming."

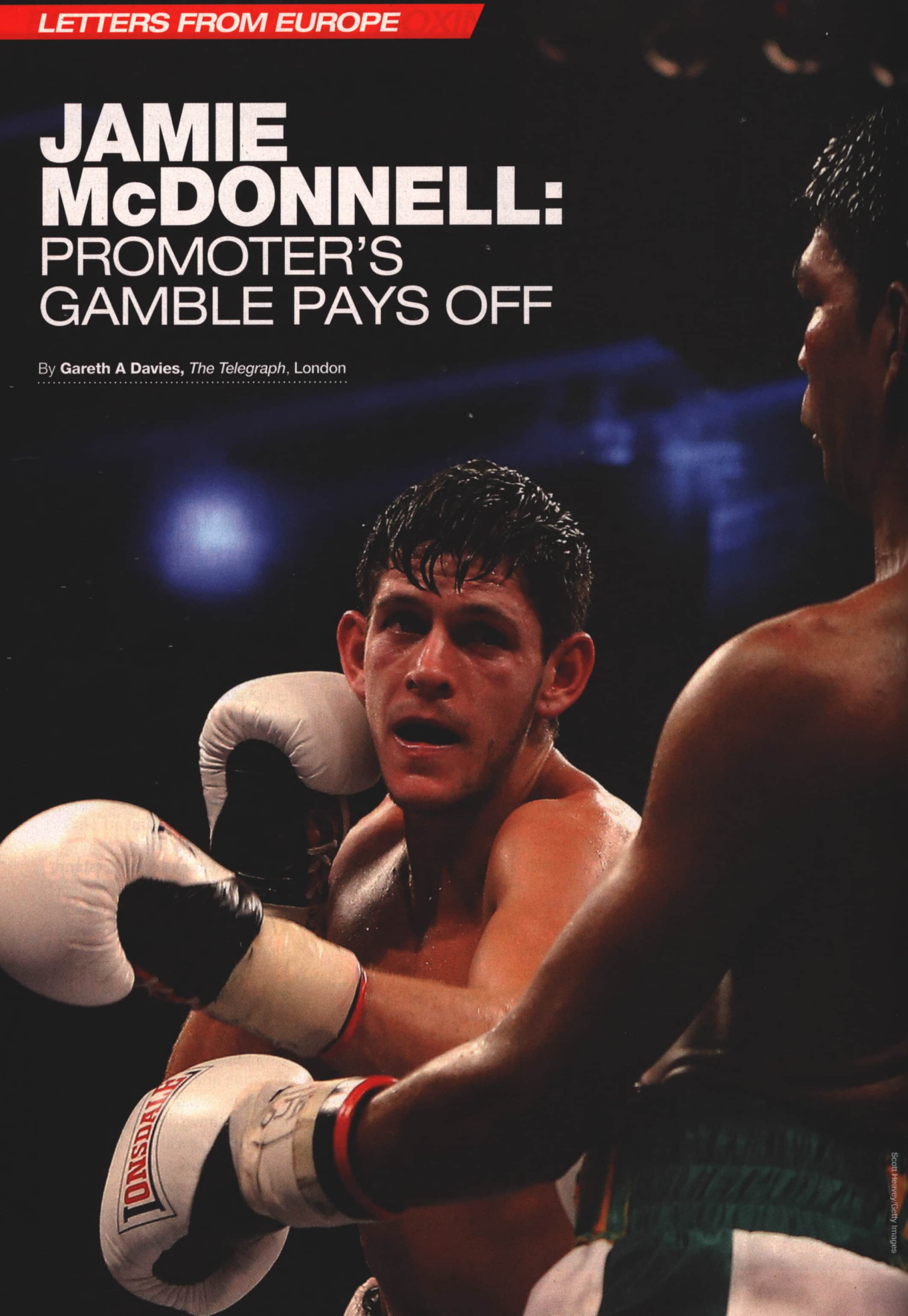
Her events are a family affair. Husband, children, cousins all get roped in to run the event. "It's me, my husband, Dick Mason, who just does whatever I need, my daughter, who's 26, sells programs, my son, who's 23, televises and films it. They help out on the day and they have a much better understanding of boxing. Then my daughter's boyfriend does the Green Room, and my cousin sometimes helps front of house."

"It's in my gut and in my soul, and I can't stop. There's a moment sometimes in a show when I find it just absolutely comes alive and people are yelling and shouting and your corner's alive and that's what it's all about for me. Somehow, things mesh and it becomes bigger than all the parts and it's just amazing."

Miranda Carter might not be Aileen Eaton quite yet, but there is no doubting her passion for the sport she loves.

JAMIE McDONNELL: PROMOTER'S GAMBLE PAYS OFF

By **Gareth A Davies,** *The Telegraph*, London



Scott Heavey/Getty Images

Jamie McDonnell became Britain's fourth current world titleholder when he outpointed Julio Ceja on May 11.

The little fella Jamie McDonnell became Britain's fourth incumbent world champion on a memorable night in Doncaster. McDonnell, 118 pounds wringing wet, a plasterer by day, gym rat by night, might just have put himself in a very lucrative position.

Significantly, he propelled himself into the mix as the only prominent European in a division dominated by Japanese, African and Hispanic fighters after winning the vacant International Boxing Federation bantamweight world title against Julio Ceja of Mexico on May 11. McDonnell fought both intelligently and with great pride; he was hurt in the 11th round, but quite brilliant in the final stanza when it really mattered. It was a world title victory which will live long in the memory.

His promoter Dennis Hobson – who oversaw several of Ricky Hatton's world title fights from junior welterweight to welterweight – certainly thinks so.

Hobson had pulled off a masterstroke by winning the purse bid to stage the fight in McDonnell's hometown, 4,000 fans thrilled as they descended on the Keepmoat Stadium, base of both the local professional soccer and rugby league clubs. Not even the drizzle could dampen spirits.

Hobson had contacted me almost six weeks earlier, railing against Matchroom Sports, whom he felt had alienated his man by not placing the event on Sky Sports, one of the major broadcasters of boxing in the U.K.

Hobson went on to say that it was a quasi-monopoly, criticizing the fact that other promoters had to go through Eddie Hearn to get their fighters onto the Sky platform. Hobson had been hopeful of getting a Sky date through Matchroom, but the timing of the fight has conspired against them. On May 11, Matchroom-promoted Ricky Burns was due to defend his World Boxing Organization lightweight title against mandatory challenger Jose Gonzalez on Sky.

Hearn, meanwhile, responded to the accusation when I caught up with him. "Since the start of our new contract a little over six months ago, we have worked with a number of promoters and we intend to keep that trend," he said. "Last October we provided the opportunity and platform for Dennis Hobson when Jamie McDonnell boxed in an IBF final eliminator on a Kell Brook show, and only last Saturday [March 30] on our show in Liverpool, Ricky Hatton's Jazza Dickens fought for the English junior featherweight title, and Dave Coldwell's Derry Matthews challenged Ricky Hatton's Anthony Crolla in a fight-of-the-year rematch."

"It's not about taking control – it's about delivering a quality product for our broadcaster, and I'm talking to a number of promoters about working with them and their fighters."

In a sense, though, Hobson had the last laugh. He put the fight on a pay-per-view channel, filmed it himself, and the following weekend, the McDonnell-Ceja fight was shown in its entirety as the prelude to the fight night from Atlantic City, N.J., featuring Lee Purdy in a failed welterweight title shot at Devon Alexander.

Yet, McDonnell might also learn a trick or two. He disappeared the day after the fight to sun himself in Turkey on holiday, and deserving as he was of a break, a round of media commitments would have served him well. Hobson will drum that aspect of life into him. But the Sheffield promoter was thrilled.

"Jamie showed how clever he is," he said. "It was like a matador against a bull. Jamie can box a fighter, and fight

a boxer." Ceja, still just 20, had come to Yorkshire with a reputation as a wrecking machine at the weight, with a record of 24-0 (22 knockouts).

Look around the world. At the time of going to press, the WBC champion was Shinsuke Yamanaka, the WBA currently has Anselmo Moreno, while Paulus Ambunda holds the WBO title. Moreno, although his last effort was a failed title bid against Abner Mares at 122, remains the world No. 1 in the division.

"It was a gamble, but it paid off," said Hobson. "But being in front of a home crowd gave him that extra 15 percent."

★

DAVID HAYE

The enforced postponement of David Haye's comeback bout, scheduled for June 29 in Manchester against Manuel Charr, was followed by a great deal of chatter. Talk of a Tyson Fury fight in the autumn is in the air, though this is yet to be confirmed.

Regardless, the call-off was seen in many quarters as a setback for Haye's attempt to become a two-time world heavyweight champion. A convincing victory over the Germany-based Syrian would have been an ideal platform for relaunching himself on the world stage.

With Alexander Povetkin having dealt imperiously with Andrzej Wawrzyk and his overblown 27-fight unbeaten record, a mega payday for Wladimir Klitschko awaits. The Ukrainian will share the spoils – to the tune of $17 million – of a mammoth purse bid of $23 million being put down by Povetkin's management team.

By the time that contest is done and dusted, it could go one of two ways for Haye. He may be left forlornly chasing air as Klitschko disappears into the sunset a very wealthy man, or it may leave the heavyweight division wide open thereafter.

Haye, of course, was widely ridiculed for blaming the loss of the World Boxing Association belt to Wladimir Klitschko in July 2011 on a broken little toe.

After a self-imposed retirement, with Wladimir and Vitali Klitschko refusing to offer world title redemption, Haye resolved to work his way into becoming mandatory challenger to the four world titles held by the Ukrainian brothers. It may all be coming a little too late.

★

RICKY BURNS

There are two ways of looking at the way in which Ricky Burns retained his World Boxing Organization lightweight title in Glasgow against Jose Gonzalez, who retired at the end of the ninth round on his stool with a damaged left wrist.

Burns showed the true heart and desire of a champion, which is unquestionable – but he was also outboxed for the first seven rounds of the fight.

The Puerto Rican challenger was three rounds ahead on all three cards – 87-84 – when he failed to stand at the bell for the 10th, suffering his first defeat in his 23rd contest, as Burns advanced his record to 36 wins and just two defeats after this, his eighth world title bout.

Outboxed for long periods of the contest, heart and steeliness and the will to win carried the champion Burns through a fight in which he was made to look pedestrian at times. The ring rust of three training camps and no fight since September clearly showed.

This was no performance on a par with the great world lightweight champion Ken Buchanan, to whom comparisons had been drawn. But in a contest which ignited from the fifth round onwards, Burns showed again why he deserves high praise.

The seventh round was a thrilling spectacle as the two men fought each other to a standstill, both caught by hooks, both exhausted and both in trouble.

The right punch from either fighter could have brought a finish. Remarkably, the Saturday after defending his world title, Burns was back in the sports shop where he works in his hometown of Coatbridge, in Scotland. Talk about humble.

U.K. TOP 10

Gareth A Davies' monthly pound-for-pound list for British boxers.

1. CARL FROCH
2. AMIR KHAN
3. DAVID HAYE
4. RICKY BURNS
5. KELL BROOK
6. NATHAN CLEVERLY
7. CARL FRAMPTON
8. TYSON FURY
9. SCOTT QUIGG
10. JAMIE MCDONNELL

Through fights of May 19

David Haye (left) was scheduled to fight Manuel Charr on June 29 but the fight was called off after Haye injured his hand.

Scott Heavey/Getty Images

DAVID PRICE

Elsewhere, David Price, who rematches his nemesis Tony Thompson on July 6, spent time in Canada under the tutelage of former undisputed world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis.

Lewis told me he had looked to get Price's feet moving a little more, and insists that the Liverpudlian still has a major future in the division. Let's hope so.

"The division is very open right now. Father Time is catching up with the Klitschkos. David is a great listener, and learner. We have been going over the basics. Hopefully I can impart things to him which will help him achieve his goal. I'm trying to make him a little more relaxed, more relaxed with his feet and punches, and stay focused on his defense."

There is also the mental side. "When we start off our pro career, we knock out a few opponents, and we think we can knock out all the guys quick, and we get focused on the power. It's all about softening your opponent up."

★

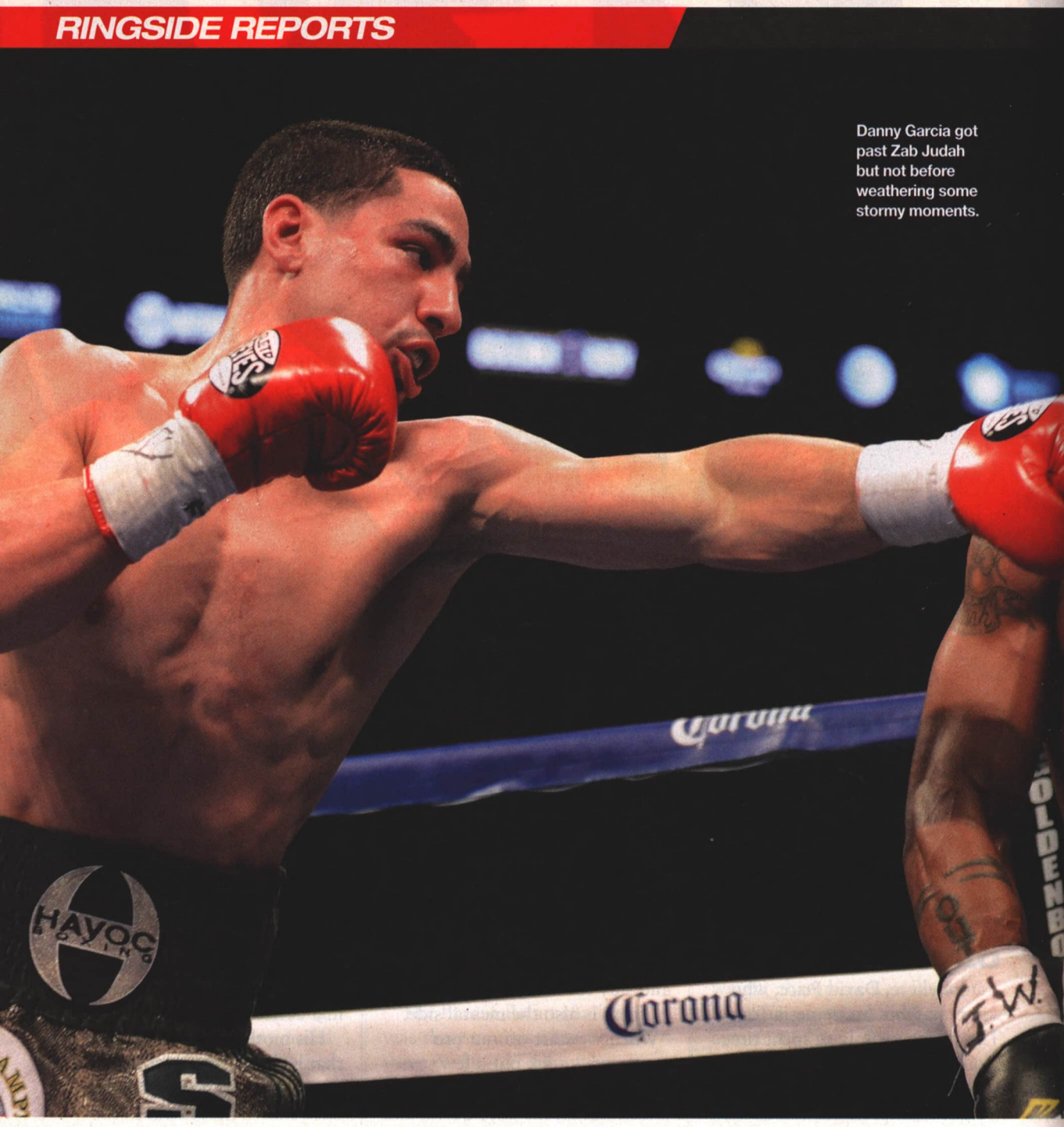
JAMIE WOOD

Finally, sad news for Jamie Wood, whom I reported on in this column a year ago. The teenager, a boxing fanatic, had fought cancer and harrowing reconstructive facial surgery in an attempt to become a professional boxer. British boxing, and all its stars, had united for him in a collective cause.

His mother, Tracey, revealed that he has been asked by doctors to give up boxing. "Scans have shown movement in the reconstructed bone. As you can imagine, Jamie is devastated as he eats, sleeps and breathes boxing. It's what saved his life."

"As a mother I don't want him to box, especially after having his face rebuilt and all that he's been through. I've told him no matter that he's not won any titles or belts, he's a champion in our eyes. He won the hardest fight ever against cancer and not many people win that fight."

Too right. Cheers.



Danny Garcia got past Zab Judah but not before weathering some stormy moments.

DANNY GARCIA UD 12
ZAB JUDAH
Date: April 27, 2013
Site: Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Division: Junior welterweight
Weights: Garcia 139; Judah 140
Ring Rating (going into the fight): Garcia Champion; Judah No. 4
Network: Showtime

★ For a while, it looked as if the best fights would happen before the opening bell. But Danny Garcia and Zab Judah made everybody forget about what Garcia's dad said, what Judah alleged and what the feuding camps nearly did to each other after Judah crashed an event that Garcia staged as a meet-and-greet chance for fans.

Peace was declared with skill, tenacity and blood from each fighter throughout 12 rounds of regulated violence at Barclays Center. The unbeaten Garcia (26-0 16 knockouts) prevailed on all three scorecards – 116-11, 115-112 and 114-112 – but it wasn't easy against the 35-year-old Judah (42-8, 29 KOs), who in middle age has matured into a likable fighter with heart and poise sadly absent a decade ago.

"Regarding the bad blood," Garcia said at the post-fight news conference. "It's gone. … It's a respect."

Mutual respect emerged from an emotional cauldron that officials feared might spill over into a riot. Tensions ran so high that Golden Boy Promotions decided the two would not appear together at the final news conference. The face-off ritual was eliminated from the usual theater expected at a weigh-in. In a fight-night

Naoki Fukuda

scene not witnessed since Lennox Lewis-Mike Tyson in 2002, a wall of security guards stood between the fighters when they entered the ring and introductions were made.

Early on, it looked as if the 25-year-old Garcia would make Judah look like an old man. For a commanding four rounds, Garcia landed hard shots at will. Then in the fifth, a right hand to the head shook Judah. In the sixth, it looked as if Garcia would finish the task. He landed another right and followed with a succession of solid blows. There was no knockdown, although it was scored a 10-8 round on one card. In the eighth, another right hand, straight as a fast ball, dropped Judah onto the seat of his trunks. Judah got up, but blood was falling from a cut under his right eye. It looked as if the end of the fight and perhaps his career was near.

Yet, somehow, Judah hung on, first to Garcia and then to some intangible source of willpower.

"I thought the scores were closer than they actually were," Judah said. "You're going to see me fight again. Why would I quit?"

Why, indeed.

Judah, a Brooklyn native, recovered in the 10th, hurting Garcia with his feared left hand. In the 11th, Judah followed a left hand with a right that surprised Garcia, who was suddenly weary. In the 12th, a head butt left both Judah and Garcia bloodied.

"It was a helluva fight," said Garcia, who now might face a helluva challenge in Lucas Matthysse.

– Norm Frauenheim

SERGIO MARTINEZ UD 12 MARTIN MURRAY

Date: April 27, 2013
Site: Estadio Jose Amalfitani, Buenos Aires
Division: Middleweight
Weights: Martinez 159.4; Murray 159.6
Ring Rating (going into the fight): Martinez Champion; Murray No. 7
Network: HBO

★ Sergio Martinez's homecoming included rain, a bad knee, a broken left hand and an English middleweight as underrated as he was unknown. They surrounded Martinez, like elements gathering for a perfect storm. Each seemed to say that author Thomas Wolfe was right-on with that old warning about going home: Don't do it. But Martinez had other ideas.

For Martinez, home is where the heart is and he displayed plenty of that in a unanimous decision over Martin Murray at an Argentine soccer stadium. Home also is where friendly officials often are. Martinez (51-2-2, 28 KOs) won on each of the judges' cards by the same score, 115-112, despite suffering a knockdown from an overhand right in the eighth round.

Then, there was referee Massimo Barrovecchio, who said Martinez slipped in the 10th. Video replay showed it to be a knockdown. If it had been ruled that way, Martinez's trip home might have been a draw. Not as bad as Wolfe might have predicted. But not worth the journey.

Still, boxing without home-cooking would be like mom without chicken noodle soup. It's expected. It's also not as if Martinez didn't work for the edge with a gritty display in weather that would have led to a rain-out in baseball. Martinez survived, much to the delight of fans huddled beneath umbrellas and dressed up in everything but an ark.

A knee injury suffered in a dominating decision over Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. on Sept. 15 proved problematic. Martinez had undergone surgery later that month and there were questions about whether seven months was time enough for it to heal. Chicago Bulls playmaker Derrick Rose missed an entire NBA season after undergoing knee surgery last April.

But Argentina called. In his first fight at home in a decade, the middleweight champ looked tentative, perhaps because he was worried about a canvas slick from rain, or out of uncertainty about the knee. Whatever it was, the knee and Martinez were vulnerable.

"His knee is going to need another surgery," Martinez's promoter Lou DiBella said at the post-fight news conference. "He's never going to be 100 percent again. But when a superstar needed to step up and close the show in the championship rounds, he did."

But at what cost? DiBella said Martinez, who also broke his left hand during the action, won't fight again this year. At 38 years old, his career seems to be drawing to a close, which means a few fights for as much money as possible. Was Floyd Mayweather Jr. watching? Unlikely is a rematch with Murray (25-1-1, 11 KOs), who didn't complain about a loss that won him a spot in the middleweight mix.

- Norm Frauenheim

Abner Mares cracked THE RING pound-for-pound Top 10 after stopping Daniel Ponce de Leon.

ABNER MARES TKO 9
DANIEL PONCE DE LEON
Date: May 4, 2013
Site: MGM Grand, Las Vegas
Division: Featherweight
Weights: Mares 126; Ponce De Leon 126
Ring Rating (going into the fight): Ponce De Leon No. 2; Mares No. 2 Junior featherweight
Network: Showtime

★ Close friends, like brothers, aren't supposed to fight each other. But Abner Mares and Daniel Ponce de Leon don't live according to the Klitschko Code, which is a promise from heavyweight brothers Wladimir and Vitali to never engage in civil conflict.

For Mares and Ponce de Leon, boxing is fundamental to a friendship. It's how they express themselves. It's what they do best. Can just one be enough? Probably not, especially after Mares won a ninth-round TKO over Ponce de Leon in a bout that sets the stage for at least one rematch.

"I can smell a trilogy," their promoter, Oscar De La Hoya, said a couple of days before they fought each other for money for the first time on the undercard of Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s one-sided decision over Robert Guerrero.

De La Hoya might have been getting ahead of himself. Then again, maybe not. Here's why: Mares' impressive victory in his first bout at 126 pounds came about because of a judgment call by referee Jay Nady. Nady ended it at 2:20 of the ninth. Too early, some argue.

"I want a rematch," Ponce de Leon, (44-5, 35 KOs) said after he lost his acronym-sponsored version of the title. "The ref stopped the fight too quickly. He stepped in too fast."

Moments before Nady interceded with a TKO, Mares (26-0-1, 14 KOs) scored his second knockdown of the bout with a beautiful right hand. Ponce de Leon, down in the second from a left, appeared to be shaken. Turns out, he was. Mares followed with about a dozen punches, including three successive rights.

Scattered boos at the MGM Grand Garden Arena had the unmistakable sound of a crowd that wanted more. There's a good chance that'll happen. Mares and Ponce de Leon have the same manager, Frank Espinoza. They have the same promoter. Now, they have an audience. They also have similar backgrounds. Both are Mexican Olympians, Ponce de Leon in 2000 and Mares in 2004. Both are immigrants now living in Southern California. Above all, there is loyalty forged by rounds in the gym and years of pursuing a livelihood in the same game. They are friends transformed into business partners.

Put it all together, and it would be a surprise if they don't fight again. Espinoza wants to wait. If there were boos for the stoppage on May 4, there's a good chance that there will be an increasing demand for an encore later on. The promise of a dramatic rematch is there, assuming Mares' improvement doesn't continue at such an astonishing rate.

"Abner dropped me," Ponce de Leon said. "But I was very conscious."

Very aware, too, of what a rematch or two could do. **- Norm Frauenheim**

LUCAS MATTHYSSE TKO 3 LAMONT PETERSON

Date: May 18, 2013
Site: Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City, N.J.
Division: Junior welterweight
Weights: Matthysse 140; Peterson 141
Ring Rating (going into the fight): Matthysse No. 1; Peterson No. 2
Network: Showtime

★ Lucas Matthysse got more than a new passport. He got an explosive victory that validated his power, enhanced his international marketability and stamped him as a fighter with credentials that could allow him to travel to the top of the marquee.

It's safe to say that Matthysse's restored passport, needed after the old one was defaced during a break-in at his home in Argentina, didn't refer to him as the next Manny Pacquiao. Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer did that. Argue all you want about the Pacquiao parallel, but there's little doubt about the possibilities suggested in Schaefer's celebration of Matthysse's swift stoppage of Lamont Peterson.

With doubts about whether Pacquiao can come back from the Juan Manuel Marquez fight that sent the Filipino face first onto the canvas and with Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s career down to perhaps five fights, a star search is underway. Canelo Alvarez? Andre Ward? Nonito Donaire? Mikey Garcia? Abner Mares? Gennady Golovkin? Danny Garcia?

Matthysse (34-2, 32 KOs) put himself on the list, if not in the lead, of potential successors with a dynamic display of the one commodity that sells more than any: Knockout power moves the meter. Despite a crowd that appeared to be about half of the announced 4,215, Matthysse's demolition of Peterson (31-2-1,16 KOs) promises to have staying power on YouTube and wherever else it can be watched again. And again. Nothing virtual about it. It's real, frighteningly so for Peterson and perhaps Garcia, whose seat at ringside allowed him to witness what he might encounter against Matthysse, possibly on Sept. 7 in Washington, D.C.

Matthysse, whose arrival in Atlantic City was delayed by the passport issue, wasted little time. He roughed up Peterson with rabbit punches and stubborn pressure. The tactic appeared to unnerve Peterson, who confirmed as much in the post-fight news conference.

"The beginning plan was to keep boxing," he said. "Sometime in the second round, I got hit in the back of the head and got a little upset. I got a little more reckless and wanted to bang. I could feel the fight heating up. I kind of abandoned the plan a little bit and I paid for it."

Paid big time.

Matthysse dropped Peterson with a left to the temple in the second. Peterson, displaying characteristic resilience, got up. But his unsteady feet foretold what was about to happen. In the third, two more Matthysse lefts scored two more knockdowns. Peterson got up at the count of seven after the second, but referee Steve Smoger had seen enough, ending it at 2:14 of the round.

"Now we all know who the best 140-pounder is," Matthysse said

In a loaded division, there should be plenty of chances to test that theory.

- Norm Frauenheim

DEONTAY WILDER TKO 1 AUDLEY HARRISON

April 27, Sheffield, England (Box Nation)

★ It was a familiar sight for British boxing fans: Audley Harrison stopped on his feet. This time it was at the hands of perhaps the best American heavyweight prospect, Deontay Wilder.

Wilder (28-0, 28 KOs) bullied Harrison (31-7, 23 KOs) into the ropes before he connected with a booming overhand right that stunned Harrison. Wilder sensed the moment and began to swing wildly with both fists, landing chopping overhand rights and clubbing lefts on the defenseless Brit, before Harrison succumbed to the offensive and dropped into a heap in the corner.

Harrison, 41, beat the count but referee Terry O'Connor concluded Harrison was unfit to continue and waved it off at 1:10 of Round 1. The 2000 Olympic gold medalist seemed fine, though. He said he had "his senses about [him], the fight wasn't over, the fight was just starting."

Wilder, 27, called out Tyson Fury afterward and said, "[My] power, it scares me sometimes. This is my year."

NO. 2 AMIR KHAN UD 12 JULIO DIAZ

April 27, Sheffield, England (Showtime)

★ Amir Khan's shaky chin gave way once more but this time it didn't cost him. The former junior welterweight titleholder was dropped hard by Julio Diaz in the fourth round and was hurt several more times but hung on to win by unanimous decision.

The scores were 114-113, 115-112 and 115-113.

The fight seemed destined to be a stay-busy exercise for Khan but Diaz, a sizeable underdog, had other ideas. Khan (28-3, 19 KOs) easily won the first three rounds before he was caught by a big left hook that sent him to the canvas. Diaz (40-8-1, 29 KOs) pressed the fight and caught Khan with several more hard shots, but Khan boxed well under duress down the stretch to have his hand raised.

It wasn't a good showing for Khan – Diaz's best days were at 135, and he isn't known for his power – but he survived and is slated to return in December. For Khan, the old boxing axiom holds true: "Win this time, look good next time."

NO. 6 PETER QUILLIN TKO 8 FERNANDO GUERRERO

April 27, Brooklyn, N.Y. (Showtime)

★ Peter Quillin has firmly established himself as one of the biggest punchers in the sport.

After scoring six knockdowns of Hassan N'Dam in October to win the WBO middleweight title, Quillin successfully defended it with four more knockdowns and a seventh-round TKO of Fernando Guerrero.

Guerrero (25-2, 19 KOs), moving up from 154, was considerably smaller than Quillin and never really got into the fight. He was dropped twice in the second round and badly hurt, but he survived.

After Quillin floored Guerrero twice more in the seventh, referee Harvey Dock waved the bout off at 1:30.

Quillin (29-0, 21 KOs) is clearly one of the best middleweights in the world. Guerrero

Naoki Fukuda

Francesco Pianeta joined a long list of heavyweights who have taken a beating from Wladimir Klitschko.

was once a highly touted prospect, but after a major upset loss to Grady Brewer in 2011 and now this setback, it's unclear where he goes from here.

BERMANE STIVERNE UD 12 CHRIS ARREOLA

April 27, Ontario, Calif. (HBO)

★ The fight turned out to be the savage heavyweight slugfest fans were hoping for. In the process, North America may have found a new hope for boxing's glamour division in Bermane Stiverne.

Stiverne (23-1-1, 20 KOs) dropped Arreola at the end of the third round with a monstrous right hand that also broke Arreola's nose. The injury limited the former title challenger greatly, restricting his ability to breathe. Arreola (35-3, 30 KOs) showed great heart, though, and finished the fight with blood gushing from his nostrils. But he couldn't cope with Stiverne's skills and dropped a unanimous decision, losing by scores of 117-110, 118-109 and 117-110.

Stiverne displayed a good jab, a commitment to body punching and set his punches up nicely with feints. The native of Haiti, who lived in Canada but now fights out of Las Vegas, certainly did far more with his second HBO appearance. His first outing on the network was an unimpressive win over Ray Austin. He's now the mandatory challenger to the WBC belt held by Vitali Klitschko.

CHAMPION WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO TKO 6 FRANCESCO PIANETA

May 4, Mannheim, Germany

★ Another Wladimir Klitschko fight, another non-competitive fight. Even Klitschko said after he stopped the German-based Italian that he's bored.

The giant Ukrainian put Pianeta (28-1-1, 15 KOs) down in each of the final three rounds. He was able to get to his feet in the sixth but the referee decided to save him from unnecessary punishment, giving Klitschko (60-3, 51 KOs) his 18th consecutive victory over eight-plus years. The CompuBox numbers provided further evidence of Klitschko's domination: He outlanded Pianeta 116-24 in total punches.

The most interesting aspect of Klitschko's career at the moment might be the milestones he's approaching. He has made 19 successful title defenses over two reigns, behind only Joe Louis' 25 and Larry Holmes' 20 among heavyweights. And Klitschko has held at least one major title for a total of about nine years and seven months, second to Louis' 11 years and nine months.

And, as Pianeta will tell, Klitschko shows no signs of slowing down even at 37 years old.

SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI TKO 8 NO. 2 YOTA SATO

May 3, Si Sa Ket, Thailand

★ Thailand is once again home to a champion boxer. The country hasn't had a major titleholder since future Hall of Famer Pongsaklek Wonjongkam lost his RING championship last year.

Srisaket Sor Rungvisai filled the void, scoring an eighth-round stoppage over Yota Sato before a raucous hometown crowd to win the WBC's 115-pound belt.

Sor Rungvisai (19-3-1, 18 KOs) completed an impressive career revival: He made his

DANIEL ROLAND/AFP/Getty Images

pro debut in 2009 and was 1-3-1 in his first five fights. But he hasn't lost since and has kept a torrid schedule, with five fights in 2012 and three in 2013.

It was an entertaining fight, but Sato faded down the stretch. In the eighth, Sor Rungvisai pushed him into a corner and unloaded, forcing referee Guido Cavalleri to step in at 1:26. The Thai fighter was well ahead on all three cards at the time of the stoppage: 79-72, 79-71 and 79-72.

Sato (26-3-1, 12 KOs) was defending his belt for the third time.

LEO SANTA CRUZ TKO 5 ALEXANDER MUNOZ

May 4, Las Vegas (Showtime Pay-per-view)

★ Former bantamweight titleholder Leo Santa Cruz is known as a devastating body puncher but seems to do damage wherever his punches land. Alexander Munoz will testify to that.

Santa Cruz, making his junior featherweight debut, overwhelmed Munoz (36-5, 28 KOs) with his size and prolific power punching to the head and body on the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Robert Guerrero card at the MGM Grand. Santa Cruz put the former two-time junior bantamweight titleholder down in Rounds 3 and 5, the second time prompting Munoz's cornermen to end the slaughter.

Munoz got in his licks but couldn't handle Santa Cruz's strength. "I have to go down in weight," Munoz said. "His weight was too much for me. Santa Cruz is very good, but he has room to improve, because I landed a lot of punches."

Santa Cruz (24-0-1, 14 KOs) wouldn't argue with that assessment. "I wanted to give fans a good fight," he said. "I need to work on my defense a little bit, my head movement. Sometimes I get carried away and I just want to bang."

NO. 5 KAZUTO IOKA KO 9 WISANU KOKIETGYM

May 8, Osaka, Japan

★ Kazuto Ioka isn't showered with the same praise as other top young fighters, but the 24-year-old from Japan is simply one of the best. He proved it again, this time dispatching Thai southpaw Wisanu Kokietgym in nine rounds.

Ioka (12-0, 8 KOs) dominated the fight from the onset before ending matters with an explosive right hand to the body that rendered the veteran flat on his back. Referee Mark Nelson reached the count of 10 at 2:51 of Round 9, while Kokietgym (43-9-2, 13 KOs) lay writhing in pain for minutes after.

Prior to the fight-ending shot, Ioka buzzed Kokietgym with a straight right and then followed with a power combination in the same round. Kokietgym hung tough and was throwing back but was clearly overmatched.

It was Ioka's first successful defense of his WBA 108-pound belt. He had previously held the unified strawweight title.

NO. 3 RICKY BURNS TKO 9 JOSE GONZALEZ

May 11, Glasgow, Scotland (Boxnation)

★ Just three more rounds. That was all Jose Gonzalez needed to shock the world and upset Ricky Burns to win the WBO lightweight title in his opponent's backyard. The largely unknown mandatory challenger was ahead 87-84 on all three cards and had befuddled Burns the whole fight. But then something inexplicable happened: Gonzalez quit.

Gonzalez (22-1, 17 KOs) later cited a broken left wrist for retiring on his stool after the ninth round. If he had stood on his feet the remainder of the rounds, he most likely would've emerged with at least a draw. The Puerto Rican drilled Burns with power shots all night and hurt his foe in the fifth and sixth rounds. Burns rallied in the seventh, however, and stood toe-to-toe with Gonzalez to produce a surefire Round of the Year candidate. Burns (36-2, 11 KOs) then clearly won Rounds 8 and 9, as Gonzalez seemed to be exhausted and a beaten man.

When referee Russell Mora waved it off, Burns surely knew that he'd dodged a big bullet.

NO. 6 DEVON ALEXANDER TKO 7 LEE PURDY

May 18, Atlantic City, N.J. (Showtime)

★ Devon Alexander (25-1, 14 KOs) was slated to fight the U.K.'s Kell Brook on three occasions but settled for Brook's countryman Lee Purdy, who accepted the bout on four weeks' notice. Purdy (20-4-1, 13 KOs) was game but clearly was not in Alexander's class.

The Briton elected to cover up rather than attempt to mount any sustained offense. Alexander, who said he suffered a broken hand in Round 1, drove through his target with lead right hooks and uppercuts to inflict a ton of punishment. He almost doubled Purdy's output, throwing 625 shots to just 336 by Purdy.

Following the seventh round, Purdy's corner wisely threw in the towel. An emotional Purdy vehemently protested, but he did little in the fight to match his display at the conclusion.

Alexander's IBF belt wasn't on the line because Purdy missed the welterweight limit. Golden Boy, which promotes Amir Khan and Alexander, said it's possible the pair will meet in December.

SHANE MOSLEY UD 12 PABLO CESAR CANO

May 18, Cancun, Mexico (Fox Sports)

★ The future Hall of Famer is in the twilight of his career but evidently he's not shot, as he scored his first victory in four years.

"Sugar" Shane Mosley ended a short-lived retirement and traveled to Mexico to slug it out with Pablo Cesar Cano in an entertaining bout with many ebbs and flows. In the process, the 41-year-old veteran demonstrated that he can still pull the trigger.

Mosley (47-8-1, 39 KOs) unloaded with overhand rights and couldn't miss, buckling the 23-year-old near a corner in Round 6. Cano (26-3-1, 20 KOs) returned the favor in Round 9, but Mosley was able to catch his foe with power shots that fended him off.

Mosley stung Cano again in Round 10, only to be rocked once more in Round 11, when Cano sent his mouthpiece flying with a big left hook. The former three-division titleholder dug deep in the 12th, though, and edged Cano on the cards by identical scores of 115-113.

FIGHT RESULTS THROUGH MAY 19, 2013

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Magomed Abdusalamov TKO 1 Sebastian Ceballos
Deontay Wilder TKO 1 Audley Harrison
Eric Molina UD 12 Tony Grano
Bermane Stiverne UD 12 Chris Arreola
Lucas Browne UD 12 James Toney
Kevin Johnson TKO 10 Solomon Haumono
Mike Perez UD 10 Travis Walker
Wladimir Klitschko TKO 6 Francesco Pianeta
Alexander Petkovic UD 12 Timo Hoffmann
Vinny Maddalone TKO 3 Richard Carmack
Tor Hamer TKO 3 Maurenzo Smith
Mark de Mori TKO 5 Adnan Buharalija
Alexander Povetkin TKO 3 Andrzej Wawrzyk
Krzysztof Zimnoch UD 8 Oliver McCall
Kelvin Price UD 10 Danny Williams

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Ivica Bacurin TKO 2 Vaclav Karafiat
Firat Arslan UD 10 Varol Vekiloglu
Daniel Ammann UD 10 Kane Watts
Braimah Kamoko TKO 6 George Tevdorashvili
Jeremy Ouanna UD 10 Gabriel Lecrosnier
Stephen Simmons TKO 3 Michael Sweeney
Guillermo Jones KO 11 Denis Lebedev

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Juergen Braehmer TKO 2 Tony Averlant
Oleksandr Cherviak TKO 10 Dustin Dirks
Anthony Dirrell UD 8 Don Mouton
Timy Shala MD 12 Tomas Adamek
Medzhid Bektemirov UD 12 Randy Griffin
Lionell Thompson UD 8 Yathomas Riley
Patrick Bois SD 10 Jonathan Profichet
Nadjib Mohammedi KO 3 Shalva Jomardashvili
Thomas Williams Jr. UD 8 Otis Griffin

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Francis Cheka KO 10 Thomas Mashali
(F) Christina Hammer UD 10 Zita Zatyko
Badou Jack TKO 3 Michael Gbenga
Geard Ajetovic UD 12 Przemyslaw Opalach
Alejandro Berrio TKO 3 Jose Hilton Dos Santos
Rocky Fielding KO 1 Michal Nieroda
Phillip Benson TKO 7 Maxell Taylor
James DeGale KO 2 Sebastien Demers
Vladine Biosse UD 8 Latif Mundy
Balazs Kelemen UD 10 Said Mbelwa

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Nick Brinson UD 10 Jose Medina
Sergio Martinez UD 12 Martin Murray
Anthony Ogogo TKO 2 Kieron Gray
Peter Quillin TKO 7 Fernando Guerrero
Daniel Jacobs KO 4 Keenan Collins
Akio Shibata TD 9 Makoto Fuchigami
J'Leon Love SD 10 Gabriel Rosado
Jarrod Fletcher TKO 6 Philip Kotey
John Thompson UD 8 Giovany Rodriguez
Andy Lee TKO 1 Darryl Cunningham
Lamar Russ UD 8 Russell Jordan
Garth Wood TKO 2 Virgil Kalakoda
Karim Achour UD 10 Damien Bertu
Dmitry Chudinov TKO 3 Grady Brewer
Anthony Ogogo UD 6 Edgar Perez

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Anderson Clayton TKO 2 Sebastien Madani
Guido Nicolas Pitto SD 12 Jack Culcay
Michel Soro UD 10 Frederic Serre
Michael Oliveira TKO 3 Francisco Cordero
Janer Gonzalez UD 10 Fernando Castaneda
Navid Mansouri UD 10 Tyan Booth
Shawn Porter UD 10 Phil Lo Greco

WELTERWEIGHTS
Luis Abregu UD 10 Antonin Decarie
Amir Khan UD 12 Julio Diaz
Luis Collazo TKO 5 Miguel Callist
Antonio Orozco TKO 7 Jose Reynoso
Ramon de la Cruz Sena KO 9 Elias Vallejos
Floyd Mayweather Jr. UD 12 Robert Guerrero
Lanardo Tyner TKO 12 Tyrese Hendrix
Vernon Paris UD 10 Manuel Perez
Jhonny Navarrete UD 10 Francisco Reza
Sirimongkol Singmanasak TKO 6
Mohamadreza Hamze
Konstantin Ponomarev UD 8 Sergei Melis
David Avanesyan TKO 3 Bogdan Protsyshyn
Teerachai Kratingdaenggym UD 12 Behzod Nabiev
Shane Mosley UD 12 Pablo Cesar Cano
Devon Alexander TKO 7 Lee Purdy

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Silverio Ortiz UD 12 Armando Robles
Eddie Gomez UD 8 Luis Hernandez
Danny Garcia UD 12 Zab Judah
Mauricio Herrera UD 10 Ji-Hoon Kim
(F) Monica Acosta TKO 4 Darys Pardo
Albert Mensah TKO 6 Ben Odamattey
Dierry Jean TKO 4 Cleotis Pendarvis
Javier Prieto KO 9 Cesar Soriano
(F) Holly Holm UD 10 Mary McGee
Patomsuk Pathompothong TKO 7 Jonas Segu
Anthony Peterson TKO 2 Dominic Salcido
Lucas Matthysse TKO 3 Lamont Peterson

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Haskell Rhodes SD 10 Yakubu Amidu
Terry Flannigan TKO 4 Nate Campbell
Raymundo Beltran UD 10 Alejandro Rodriguez
Winston Campos SD 10 Moises Castro
Miguel Gonzalez UD 10 Miguel Acosta
Sergio Gonzalez W 10 Juan Lencina
Stephen Ormond TKO 2 Laszlo Balogh
Yoshitaka Kato UD 12 Motoki Sasaki
Nihito Arakawa KO 2 Pakphum Tor Pornchai
Cornelius Lock UD 10 Lonnie Smith
Robert Toomey TKO 8 Ty Gilchrist
Ricky Burns TKO 9 Jose Gonzalez
Ghislain Maduma UD 10 Saul Carreon
Eduard Troyanovsky KO 2 Luis Zambrano
Robert Manzanarez TKO 3 Oscar Arenas
Sergio Thompson KO 4 Gustavo Sandoval

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Kaewfah Tor Buamas UD 12 Cristian Abila
Ezequiel Fernandez UD 10 Onalvi Sierra
Emmanuel Tagoe MD 12 Ronald Pontillas
Dante Jardon TKO 8 Akinori Kanai
Gary Sykes UD 10 Jon Kays
Michael Farenas TKO 1 Gerardo Zayas
Xolisani Ndongeni UD 12 Godfrey Nzimande
Josenilson Dos Santos UD 12 Carlos Rodriguez
Takashi Uchiyama KO 5 Jaider Parra
John Simpson UD 12 Choi Tseveenpurev
Matt Garlett UD 12 Sipho Taliwe
Will Tomlinson UD 12 Malcolm Klassen

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Bualuang OnesongchaiGym UD 12 Rodynie Rafol
Marcos Martinez TKO 7 Gabriel Ovejero
Oktay Takalak UD 10 Bastien Rozeaux
Hozumi Hasegawa KO 3 Veerapol Sor Chantasith
(F) Dahiana Santana UD 10 Claudia Lopez
Jhonny Gonzalez TKO 4 Akihiko Katagiri
Andrey Bogdanov UD 12 Carlo Magali
Eusebio Osejo UD 10 Eliecer Lanzas
Abner Mares TKO 9 Daniel Ponce De Leon
(F) Hyun-Mi Choi UD 10 Shannon O'Connell
Alexander Miskirtchian KO 2 Andras Varga
Jhonatan Arenas TKO 3 Javier Coronado
Joel Brunker TKO 4 Maxsaisai Sithsaithong
Adrian Young UD 10 Sylvester Lopez
Gamalier Rodriguez TKO 3 Alicio Castaneda

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Tyson Cave UD 10 Jose Saez
Rey Vargas KO 2 Seizo Kono
Leo Santa Cruz TKO 5 Alexander Munoz
Raul Hirales UD 8 German Meraz
Vic Darchinyan TKO 4 Javier Gallo
Rendall Munroe TKO 1 Laszlo Fekete
(F) Katy Castillo TKO 7 Zenny Sotomayor

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Suriyan Sor Rungvisai UD 10 Jilo Merlin
Juan Carlos Payano TKO 2 Jhon Alberto Molina
Pungluang Sor Singyu TKO 2 Juma Fundi
Christian Esquivel KO 7 Ricardo Roman
Stuart Hall UD 12 Sergio Perales
Jamie McDonnell MD 12 Julio Ceja
Cesar Seda UD 8 Miguel Tamayo

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

(F) Riyo Togo TKO 1 Mariana Juarez
Jose Salgado UD 12 Humberto Morales
Srisaket Sor Rungvisai TKO 8 Yota Sato
Melvin Gumban UD 10 Fernando Ocon
Liborio Solis MD 12 Kohei Kono
Petch Sor Chitpattana UD 10 Ma Wu Ling
Oleydong Sithsamerchai UD 6 Falazona Fidal
Tepparith Singwancha UD 12 Jecker Buhawe
Manuel Vides KO 3 Carlos Osorio
David Carmona SD 12 Danny Flores

FLYWEIGHTS

Ardin Diale TKO 11 Cris Paulino
Kompayak Porpramook TKO 6 Jean Piero Perez
Felix Alvarado KO 1 Carlos Melo
Nawaphon Por Chokchai KO 2 Rodel Tejares
Espinos Sabu KO 1 Kaenpetch Sithpoopetch
Edgar Sosa UD 12 Giovani Segura
(F) Shindo Go UD 10 Renata Szebeledi

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Carlos Buitrago TKO 1 Yader Escobar
Kazuto Ioka KO 9 Wisanu Kokietgym
Adrian Hernandez UD 12 Yader Cardoza
Jerson Mancio TKO 5 Robel Villegas

STRAWWEIGHTS

(F) Su-Yun Hong TKO 5 Buangern OnesongchaiGym
Ryo Miyazaki TKO 5 Carlos Velarde
Karluis Diaz SD 11 Gabriel Mendoza
(F) Nancy Franco UD 10 Ana Arrazola

COMING UP

PREDICITIONS ARE MADE BY RING STAFF MEMBERS MICHAEL ROSENTHAL, DOUG FISCHER AND LEM SATTERFIELD.

The Paulie Malignaggi (left)-Adrien Broner promotion overheated at a news conference the week of the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Robert Guerrero fight.

JUNE

MIKEY GARCIA vs. JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ

Date: June 15, 2013
Location: American Airlines Center, Dallas
Division: Featherweights (for Garcia's RING and WBO titles)
TV: HBO
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★★
Also fighting: Terence Crawford vs. Alejandro Sanabria, lightweights
Significance: Garcia (31-0, 26 KOs) has looked spectacular against increasingly good opposition, making him a fast-rising star. Lopez (33-2, 30 KOs) fell from pound-for-pound status with two KO losses to Orlando Salido (who lost to Garcia) but the Puerto Rican remains dangerous.
Prediction: *Rosenthal* – Garcia KO 7; *Fischer* – Garcia KO 7; *Satterfield* – Garcia KO 9.

PAULIE MALIGNAGGI vs. ADRIEN BRONER

Date: June 22, 2013
Location: Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Division: Welterweights (for Malignaggi's WBA title)
TV: Showtime
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★
Also fighting: Johnathon Banks vs. Seth Mitchell, heavyweights; Sakio Bika vs. Marco Antonio Periban, super middleweights
Significance: Malignaggi (32-4, 7 KOs) is an underdog even though he holds the title. The excellent but light-punching boxer is 5-0 since he was stopped by Amir Khan. The gifted and powerful Broner (26-0, 22 KOs) has six consecutive knockouts in his run to stardom.
Prediction: *Rosenthal* – Broner KO 6; *Fischer* – Broner UD; *Satterfield* – Broner SD.

GENNADY GOLOVKIN VS. MATTHEW MACKLIN

Date: June 29, 2013
Location: Mashantucket, Conn.
Division: Middleweights (for Golovkin's WBA title)
TV: HBO
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★
Also fighting: Thomas Oosthuizen vs. Brandon Gonzalez, super middleweights; Willie Nelson vs. Luciano Cuello, junior middleweights
Significance: Golovkin (26-0, 23 KOs) has stopped 13 consecutive opponents, the main reason he is becoming an attraction, but probably faces his biggest test against Macklin (29-4, 20 KOs). The Briton lost to Felix Sturm and Sergio Martinez but gave both significant problems.
Prediction: *Rosenthal* – Golovkin KO 10; *Fischer* – Golovkin KO 10; *Satterfield* – Macklin SD.

JUNE 14 – Bryant Jennings vs. Franklin Lawrence, heavyweights, Bethlehem, Pa. (NBC Sports Net)

JUNE 15 – Hekkie Budler vs. Nkosinathi Joyi, strawweights, Johannesburg

JUNE 21 – Rances Barthelemy vs. Fahsai Sakkreerin, IBF junior lightweight eliminator; Donovan George vs. Caleb Truax, middleweights, Minneapolis (ESPN2)

JUNE 22 – Krzysztof Wlodarczyk vs. Rakhim Chakhkiev, for Wlodarczyk's WBC cruiserweight title, Moscow

JUNE 28 – Grzegorz Proksa vs. Sergio Mora, middleweights, Jacksonville, Fla. (ESPN2); Xiong Zhao Zhong vs. Denver Cuello, for Xiong's WBC strawweight title, Dubai

JUNE 29 – Gavin Rees vs. Anthony Crolla, lightweights; Lee Selby vs. TBA, featherweights, Bolton, England

JULY

TONY THOMPSON vs. DAVID PRICE

Date: July 6, 2013
Location: Echo Arena, Liverpool, England
Division: Heavyweights
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★
Also fighting: David Hamilton vs. Adil Anwar, for Hamilton's British junior welterweight title
Significance: The 41-year-old Thompson (37-3, 25 KOs) stunned Price (15-1, 13 KOs) and British boxing fans by scoring a second-round knockout in February. Price, who had been rising quickly, will try to exact revenge and rebuild some of his lost momentum.
Prediction: *Rosenthal* – Price UD; *Fischer* – Price SD; *Satterfield* – Price SD.

BERNARD HOPKINS vs. KARO MURAT

Date: July 13, 2013
Location: Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Division: Light heavyweights (for Hopkins' IBF title)
TV: Showtime
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★

Jeff Bottari/Golden Boy/Golden Boy via Getty Images

Also fighting:
Gary Russell Jr. vs. TBA, featherweights
Significance: Hopkins (53-6-2, 32 KOs) will be a year and half shy of his 50th birthday when this fight takes place and is still going strong, having outpointed tough Tavoris Cloud in March. Murat (25-1-1, 15 KOs) is a solid boxer but has had mixed results against top-flight foes.
Prediction: *Rosenthal* – Hopkins UD; *Fischer* – Hopkins UD; *Satterfield* – Hopkins KO 11.

ISHE SMITH vs. CARLOS MOLINA
Date: July 19, 2013
Location: Las Vegas
Division: Junior middleweight (for Smith's IBF title)
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★
Significance: Smith (25-5, 11 KOs), who had all but given up on his career and himself not long ago, outpointed Cornelius Bundrage to win his first title on an emotional night. Molina (21-5-2, 6 KOs), coming off a one-sided decision over Cory Spinks, is getting his overdue first title shot.
Prediction: *Rosenthal* – Molina UD; *Fischer* – Smith SD; *Satterfield* – Molina SD.

JULY 6 – Zaurbek Baysangurov vs. Demetrius Andrade, for Baysangurov's WBO junior middleweight title, Kiev, Ukraine

JULY 13 – Denis Grachev vs. Edwin Rodriguez, light heavyweights, Monte Carlo; Kell Brook vs. Carson Jones, welterweights, and Luke Campbell vs. TBA, bantamweights, Hull, England

JULY 27 – Zou Shiming vs. Jesus Ortega, flyweights, Evgeny Gradovich vs. Mauricio Munoz, for Gradovich's IBF featherweight title, and Juan Estrada vs. Milan Melindo, for Estrada's WBO and WBA flyweight titles, Macau, China (HBO2); in San Antonio, Andre Berto vs. Jesus Soto Karass, welterweights (Showtime)

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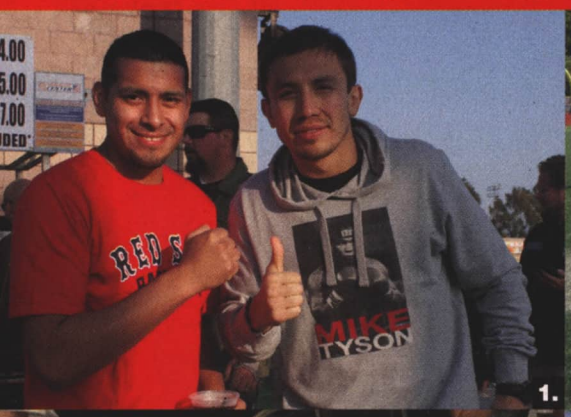
THE RING will select a photo from its vast archive each month to publish in the magazine. For more archive photos, go to our website — RingTV.com — or scan the QR code.

PRECOCIOUS PUNCHER: Knockout sensation Mike Tyson (right) became the youngest heavyweight champion ever when, at 20, he stopped Trevor Berbick to win the WBC belt on Nov. 22, 1986, in Las Vegas. Tyson would make nine successful defenses and become unified champ before traveling to Tokyo to face Buster Douglas in what was expected by many to be just another walkover on Feb. 11, 1990.

AT THE FIGHTS



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1. Miguel Nahuat (left) with Gennady Golovkin in Carson, Calif. 2. Tony Penecale Sr. (right) with Vinnie Paz in Brockton, Mass. 3. Ty Allen (right) with Ricky Hatton in Brisbane, Australia. 4. Anthony Decoteau (right) with Andre Ward in Oakland, Calif. 5. Petty Officer Third Class Jose Jaen, U.S. Navy, with Zab Judah. 6. Driul Ewuirhuefn (holding THE RING's year-end issue) with Fighter of the Year Juan Manuel Marquez in Las Vegas. 7. Albert Nava and son Issac Nava with Sugar Ray Leonard. 8. Ethan Perez (left) with Jesse James Leija in San Antonio.

4.

5.

6.

8.

7.

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